

June/July 2006

The Highlands • Courier

Getting down, in the dump

There's no reason for our 'First Lady' of The Harcourt Landfill to feel down in the dumps, instead recently hired landfill employee Debbie Williams is *getting down* in the dump. We take a first hand look at what people are throwing out, and get a good sense of just how many treasures are being dumped into our local landfills locations. Just like they say, one person's trash is another's treasure.

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the INSIDE Scoop

One step at a time

On the weekend of July 21-23, Deborah Kelly-Duperron will walk 60 kilometres to help raise funds for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation's Weekend To End Breast Cancer. Her personal goal for the weekend is to raise at least \$2,000. If even half the readers of this article make a small donation we could blow the top off this thing, maybe even double or triple her total!

A pampered chef

There are a lot of things Janene Greer likes about the Pampered Chef program but one of the main advantages is the fact that she can work as little or as much as she wants. It gives her the flexibility to spend time with the kids and really enjoy them while they are young.

Paintball and terrorism

Paintball. Terrorism. School kids. Racism. Cartoons and jihads. It's a holy war out there. Things are getting just a bit crazy these days.



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Some stuff going on this month...



Haliburton - mixing up a storm is Mike at Cordell's.



Harcourt - Bob and Lisa blooming at the South Algonquin Country Store.



Minden - Andrew Hillo Jr. finishing off another spectacular sculpture.



Bancroft - they be jamming, see for yourself at the Stone Kitchen. Yummy!

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Hired just a few months ago to work at and maintain the Harcourt landfill, Debbie Williams sure knows how to 'get down' at the dump.

It was a quiet morning when we arranged to meet at her office, or should we say work site. Her background was in financial management, so this change in her career direction is quite dramatic, but welcomed to say the least.

Deb loves her new job. 'The people make it a pleasure' she tells me. 'I'm getting to know more and more people and with the summer ahead-well it'll be interesting'.

Deb is amazed at what people throw out. She is concerned people just don't value the difference between garbage and pass-me-alongs. She is in the works of salvaging many of the landfill items, by bring them to her home to clean and refurbish. Bring her your goods-Debbie's Dump sale will be held August 26 & 27, at the Harcourt Community Centre, directing proceeds to the Community Centre. Interested call her at 448-1954.

This interview gets juicy when she

tells me of her finds, or to others like myself should I say, treasures. Her favorite item so far was a book which contained the writers notes and editing. The book which traced back to Manitoba and was of such interest to Deb, that she contacted the area library, they were amazed to hear of the books 'road show' adventure.

There were the beautiful french doors, a case of get healthy video tapes (free with your dump admission), and of course the land of unwanted toys. If you don't see it, ask for it, is Deb's motto! She showed me the recently obtained plant holder and oh my gosh... a Mickey Mouse hat!!! Are people out of their minds? Fishing poles, bicycles (save those for my brother), and a bag containing bed linens still in their package were all found at the place we call the garbage dump.

Somehow the topic of our discussion turned to the handsome men she gets to meet and greet, she tells me with all the hot finds at the dump, she's pretty sure she might even be able to find me a husband!

by Andrea Hillo

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The following is an excerpt from the personal diary of Scott Duperron, husband to Deborah Kelly, relating how the news of Deborah's cancer came to them.

Doctor Mirsky, one of the leading surgeons and breast cancer specialist for the amalgamated Ottawa Hospital walked in and shook our hands. He grabbed Deborah's hand with both of his and leaning towards her with a warm smile, looked intently into her eyes and said "you're going to be all right."

He dropped Deborah's mammogram and biopsy reports on the table and pulled up a chair.

"What the mammograms revealed Deborah is that you have two lumps in the duct area of your breast and perhaps a third lower on down here but it is uncertain."

We clutched each other's hand below the table, our breaths were very shallow.

"When you come in for the 'procedure' I will also remove the lymph nodes under your left arm. They function as your body's barometer and once we examine them I will have a much clearer understanding of the stage you're in."

Deborah was crying. I was glaring at the surgeon looking for any clues in his demeanor to determine if I thought he was hiding anything.

"What happens after that?" Deborah asked, "what kind of treatment will I need? Do you think I will need Chemotherapy as well?"

"That is why we are removing your lymph nodes Deborah; they will tell me how aggressively we need to fight this thing."

We talked a few minutes more about his aggressive approach to cancer treatment and then he left the room.

The moment the door closed our bodies collapsed and we began sobbing uncontrollably. We were reaching for each other bent-over and shaking. We had never experienced terror before. This was unlike anything we had experienced collectively or individually before.

We were terrified.

The journey of life... One step at a time

by Rory MacRandall

Deborah Kelly was born in Brampton, Ontario but raised in Montreal. Deb attended the same high school that my friends and I had broken in five years earlier, although we were only a fading legend of mayhem by the time she arrived. Despite growing up in the very same community as I did, and knowing some of the same people, we never met in our youth. About seventeen years ago, more or less, Deb met my oldest and dearest friend, Scott Duperron, on the West Island of Montreal.

Boy meets girl, its the oldest story in the world. Scott and Deb were soon engaged and, two years later they married, ten years and one day after my own wedding to my wife Shirley. In the years since she has become a good friend of mine in her own right.

Deb and Scott live in Nepean, a suburb of Ottawa, where they are raising their young family which includes twins Lauren and Ryan, 10 and the little ball of energy known as their younger brother Aiden, 4. Lifelong friendships, family harmony and suburban bliss... all is well up until the diagnosis of Deb's breast cancer.

Deborah Kelly-Duperron is an active, attractive and healthy woman who is generally quite careful about her health. Scott is a vegetarian and, although meat is not banned from their home altogether, she eats it sparingly. She is active and fit. She used to smoke cigarettes but gave them up about fifteen years ago. At the time of her diagnosis, she had no symptoms and, felt fine and was still young and strong.

Their world was turned upside down. Suddenly all the little details that consume so much of our lives were put on the back burner and their focus was placed squarely on facing up to Deb's illness.

It's a funny word, illness. How can you say you have an illness if you don't feel ill? Disease might be more applicable, but still amounts to saying you don't feel well. But she did feel well.

Thank God for medical science and the Canadian health care system. Deborah did get immediate

and first rate care. Due to the fact that the tumours were caught in an early stage, and an aggressive treatment regimen was undertaken, Deborah is now free of cancer and has been for two and half years.

"I'll be glad when it's three years," she says. "Recurrence is most common in the first few years. It's almost like I can hear a big clock ticking all the time. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think of it."

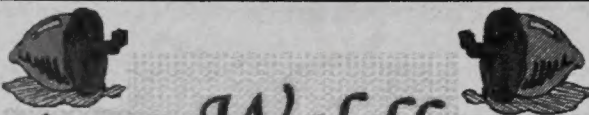
For anyone who has ever been told they have cancer, or any other potentially fatal disease, fear of their own mortality is an unavoidable concern. Surely Deb has faced this fear over the past couple of years, and still faces it on a daily basis, although she finds the level of fear diminishes with the passage of time. At first she could not stop thinking about it, then it was a day to day struggle, now she finds there are times and occasions that bring the fear to mind, most of them having to do with her kids.

"I was in a store with my daughter Lauren, picking up a graduation card for someone, and Lauren saw one she liked and asked if I would get it for her graduation when the time came," her voice is emotional as she recalls the moment, "I thought: 'Honey I would love to give you that for your graduation.' I don't want to rush my children, make them grow up too fast. There is a part of me, though, that is anxious for it to happen soon, while I'm here to see it."

Of course, Deb is free of cancer now and has good reason to hope that she will remain so. There are no guarantees, however. Research is the key. Since her diagnosis, a new breakthrough drug, herceptin, became available for patients with her type of profile. Herceptin reduces the chances of reoccurrence considerably. Deborah is on herceptin as this article goes to print.

As part of her battle with cancer, Deborah started attending meetings with a support group comprised of women who were all victims of breast

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cancer. Two members of that group have since had a recurrence of their cancer, with the cancer metastasizing (spreading to other parts of the body) in one case.

These were women whom she had come to know quite well, having shared such an intimate and poignant experience with them. It was a stark reminder of the battle she is still waging, even if the war is on a cease-fire standing at present.

Deborah Kelly-Duperron is not waiting for the disease to break the peace, however. She is being proactive.

On the weekend of July 21-23, 2006 she will walk 60 kilometres to help raise funds for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation's Weekend To End Breast Cancer. Her personal goal for the weekend is to raise at least \$2,000.

Sixty kilometres is no small commitment. Ask yourself when was the last time you walked even 10 kilometres. Maybe you're a very active person and you do that all the time. So, when did you last walk 20 kms? How about 30? Deborah will walk 30 kms each day.

Two thousand dollars is no small commitment, either. This is the part we all can help with. Deborah has a website you can go to to make a contribution. Obviously, if only five people make a contribution they would have to be pretty large to reach the \$2,000 total. But, if two thousand people contributed, they would only have to give \$1 each to hit the mark. Already several donors have contributed, this writer amongst them, and Deb is more than halfway to her target as I write this. You can do your

part by going to the following website and making a donation:

http://ot06.endcancer.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=ot06_homepage

That address will bring you to the home page for this fundraiser. You can then find Deborah Kelly-

Duperron by clicking on the 'donate' option in the 'welcome visitors' menu at the top left-hand side of the page. That will bring you to a screen that asks for the name of the participant you wish to donate for. Simply type 'Deborah' in the first name field and 'Kelly-Duperron' in the last name field. This will bring up a list with her name on it. Just click on her name and you will be at her personal page, from which you can find out more and make a donation!

If even half the readers of this article make a small donation we could blow the top off this thing, maybe even double or triple her total. It's not for Deborah Kelly-Duperron alone that we should do this, though her grace and courage in facing this challenge warrant support. It is for all the women who have been helped by the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation and all who will be helped in the future.

For Deborah she has plenty of motivation. Aside from her own personal commitment to beat cancer, she is also driven by the suffering she has seen within her support group. Most of all, though, it is for her children that she will walk. She'll walk because she wants to see

them graduate, marry, start their own families and all those other milestones we all look forward to. She'll walk in the hopes that Lauren will never have to go through what her mother has.

by Rory MacRandall



On the weekend of July 21-23, 2006 she will walk 60 kilometres to help raise funds for the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation's Weekend To End Breast Cancer. Her personal goal for the weekend is to raise at least \$2,000.



Courier Carrier



If you live in the Kinmount area or are just passing through, you can pick up your copy of The Highlands Courier at the Shop 'N Save Convenience store on the main street, just down the street from the Post Office.

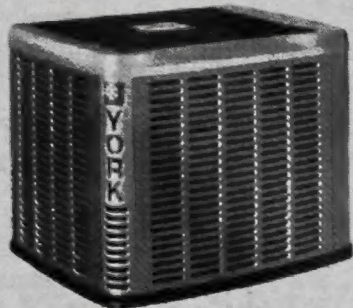
The Courier Carrier store is operated by Hafiz Makani and his wife Shelina. Open seven days a week, all year, the store carries a variety of items from hardware to health and beauty aids and toys to hunting and fishing supplies. Need fireworks or to rent a DVD movie - Hafiz and Shelina would be happy to help you out. 'If we don't have it, you don't need it,' Hafiz says with a chuckle.

Hafiz and Shelina will be celebrating their Kinmount store's 9th anniversary in July. Shop 'N Save is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays (later on long weekends).

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There have been a number of disturbing signs popping up in my neighbourhood recently. "This land is our land. Stop. Back off Government," they read.

It's a tradition around here to blame everything bad on the government. Oh, sure, we've all heard of Enron. We know that Big Tobacco have some huge scams on the go in their efforts to flog a profitable but addictive and deadly drug. But somehow, all of that corporate criminality can be focused in a phrase that will get everyone at the party nodding their heads: It's all the fault of the government.

In rural Ontario, there are many legitimate beefs farmers can level at government. Urban legislators apply their solutions to rural land issues, often without asking farmers or other rural dwellers. The (Conservative) Harris government of the late 1990s amalgamated municipalities, often forcing mismatches between rural and urban dwellers, and taking away any voice rural dwellers might have had. Free market policies have been tough on farmers, and market management has also often been clumsy and inappropriate. Rural services have dwindled: community halls, churches and schools have closed as reduced services are centralized to areas far from people's homes. We lose touch, we lose a sense of ownership as the "efficiency" experts refine aspects of rural culture and economy that rural folks hold dear.

So, the "rural revolution" couldn't have come at a better time you say. Well, yeah, but it has an unfortunate redneck ring to it that doesn't inspire confidence. The Ontario Landowners Association is only something you'd want to be part of if you subscribe to a primitive cowboy-movie style attitude toward land: "This here's my land and there ain't no one's gonna tell me what to do with it!"

Let's start with a bit of background. A few years ago, some angry landowners got together in MP Scott Reid's office to air their grievances. Scott Reid is presently the Conservative MP for Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington. (Reid shares his name with another Scott Reid, who was once the advisor to ex-prime minister Paul Martin. He's the Reid who, in the last election, said that if the Conservative child-care credit went through, parents would probably spend it on "beer and popcorn." That's not the guy we're talking about here.) Reid has been an advisor to Preston Manning and an Ontario organizer for Harper. His first MP job was under the Alliance Party banner. He was once the "official languages critic" for the Conservatives, but had to resign that job because he said that bilingual services would be reduced if the Conservatives got to govern the country. Some Conservatives didn't like such candour. I mention all of this only

Who owns the land?

By Peter R. Snell

to suggest that today these property rights advocates may have a strong ally in the present federal government.

The meeting in Reid's office spawned the Lanark Landowners Association and launched the revolutionary/reactionary career of Randy Hillier, an electrician. Hillier headed the LLA. He knew how to reach the hearts of farmers and before long, the LLA had organized a number of protests, usually involving tractors and other farm items blocking roads or confronting politicians. Subsequently, Hillier has helped a number of landowner associations get off the ground. Today, he and his crew have formed an umbrella group called the Ontario Landowners Association. Groups belonging to it include the Hastings County Property Rights Coalition, property owner associations from several Eastern Ontario municipalities, the Ontario Property & Environmental Rights Alliance (OPERA), and a number of other organizations.

The OLA puts out an online newsletter called The Landowner, billed as "The voice of the landowner - the new and gutsy magazine for landowners."

Right off the top, the newsletter sets the record straight: landowner rights should be set into our constitution. Any wimpy suggestion that maybe land is ultimately something that no one can "own" (a principle that the original natives in this country held) are dismissed out of hand. In The Landowner, reference is made to a 1976 document put together in Vancouver at something called Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. The UN still uses it as a guide to how human habitats and land might be managed, and it infuriates those who see ownership of land as John Locke and the founders of America saw it - as a basic human right, and more particularly a basic individual right. All commies go away. (We don't care where, but just make sure it's not on our land.)

The Landowner quotes a few bits from the Vancouver conference. The preamble, it seems, is particularly offensive to OLA members. Here's a bit of it: "Land, because of its unique nature and the crucial role it plays in human settlements, cannot be treated as an ordinary asset, controlled by individuals and subject to the pressures and inefficiencies of the market. Private land ownership is also a principal instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice; if unchecked, it may become a major obstacle in the planning and implementation of development schemes. Social justice, urban renewal and develop-

ment, the provision of decent dwellings and healthy conditions for the people can only be achieved if land is used in the interests of society as a whole."

Get the picture? For Hillier and his land-owning crew this must smell all too much of socialism and environmentalism.

Here's another bit from the same paper that isn't quoted in The Landowner: "Agricultural land, particularly on the periphery of urban areas, is an important national resource; without public control land is prey to speculation and urban encroachment. Change in the use of land...should be subject to public control and regulation. Such control may be exercised through: (i) Zoning and land-use planning as a basic instrument of land policy in general and of control of land-use changes in particular; (ii) Direct intervention, e.g. the creation of land reserves and land banks, purchase, compensated expropriation and/or pre-emption, acquisition of development rights, conditioned leasing of public and communal land, formation of public and mixed development enterprises; (iii) Legal controls, e.g. compulsory registration, changes in administrative boundaries, development building and local permits, assembly and replotting."

The above bit brings out the dilemma clearly. The landowners associations see proper stewardship of the land as being most efficiently done through private ownership and the less red tape the better. In short, back off government. Others see a more community approach as working better, and community approaches work best if coordinated by our representatives in the government. In short, get involved in the interests of all of us, government.

Trashing the red tape, getting rid of the laws that bind landowners (some nasty Acts listed by The Landowner include the Environmental Protection Act and the Environmental Protection Act) and giving landowners a free hand will not give farmers security, bolster low farm incomes, stop the move of people to urban areas or protect our farmers from globalization. In my area, the community has been hugely divided by what is called a "hog farm" or a "hog factory," depending upon which side you are on. Some farmers see the anti-factory farm contingent as urban and ignorant environmentalists interfering with private family business. Again it's not the corporations that these landowners target, but government regulations and the right of landowners to do what they please.

It's also a refusal to see land as different from other personal possessions. It's not

as simple as saying, "I don't have a right to tell you what to wear or what car to drive or what food to eat, why should you tell me what to do with my private property?" However, Hillier seems to think it is that simple.

"We do have the legal right and freedom to do what we want with our own legally obtained property. We also have the right and freedom to use and enjoy that property as long as our use and freedom does not harm or interfere with the freedom and rights of others," said Hillier in a recent interview/promotional bit in an online magazine called FarmGate. Hillier sees government as going far beyond its mandate to defend the rights of non-landowners. He sees government (through management boards and suchlike) as contributing to the drop in farmers' incomes.

Helen Forsey, in an article in the summer 2005 edition of This Magazine, describes a more balanced opposition to government interference in farm affairs and to the decline in farms in Canada. She quotes Ken Marisett, a National Farmers' Union member who farms near Picton.

"With farm gate prices at all-time lows, many farmers can't afford their own costs of production, let alone the costs involved in environmental stewardship. Let's organize to change that, not go off on a wild goose chase after property rights," Marisett told Forsey.

NFU figures quoted by Forsey are daunting: "Canada had a total of only 246,923 farms in 2001-down 11 percent from 1996-and a shocking 80 percent of them were supported at least in part by off-farm income. Almost half of farms with less than \$25,000 in revenue disappeared over that five-year period. NFU research points to plunging net farm income (sometimes actually less than zero), and documents the ever-growing profits of the corporate suppliers, processors, distributors and retailers, who divvy up the consumer dollars among themselves and leave the farmer with next to nothing." This is where the problem lies. Hillier and the landowners' associations have struck a nerve and a very real problem. However, they have generalized it and steered it in a right-wing direction that will ultimately only hurt farmers and all of us that care for the land. We need to recognize the problem and support those individuals and organizations willing to get our governments to fairly deal with complex economic and social problems, and to protect all of us - farmers included - from corporate greed and control of the land. Solutions will involve everyone - and will not involve the individual sovereign right some landowners are trying to claim over the rest of us.

There's only one land. It belongs to all of us and none of us.

by peter r. snell

The Highlands. Courier

The little paper with BIG issues

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Editorial

by Andrea Hillo

A recent interview at the dump got me thinking about the word... dump. It's pretty easy to see why we use the expression, after all we go to the dump, with things for the dump, and then we, pardon the expression, take the dump.

My idea of things that go to the dump may be totally different from your own list of dump-ables, but like death and taxes, I know we all need a good dump.

'Don't dump on me', 'I got dumped', 'this place is a dump', pretty negative don't you agree. When you think of it, it's a lot of pressure for such a simple word. And like the things heading to the dump, or being dumped you may wonder, what did they ever do wrong? Wasn't it good enough? Was it replaced with a newer model?

I believe a community can be 'assessed' by it's dump. Just how well are the Jones' doing? I see spam and K.D., oh, can't be so good, but heck look at the car they pulled in with. Frightening how 'disposable' our society has really become.

Most people outside of the rural area don't actually ever get to see a landfill. They are the lucky ones that simply bag their waste and leave it on the street for someone else to deal with, essentially getting someone else to take their dump for them. Wow, pretty powerful stuff, it's true what they say about location, location, location.

Up here in the Highlands we take what you call a dump run. It's as easy as driving your garbage to a landfill location and quickly throwing all your trash over the side, and running, I mean, driving away with no more garbage in your life, for the time being at least.

So next time you head to the dump, think you'll be dumped, or get dumped on, remember that either drive by or picked up, there is no easy way to be... dumped.

Andrea Hillo

World's Champion Dad



This picture of my Dad was taken in Finland (Suomi) where he was a National Water polo champion in his younger days. My dad has always welcomed a challenge, which anyone who has played this sport would understand. Just one of the many reasons he is Super Dad to me. Happy Fathers Day Dad!

Get an opinion

by Danny Andru

War in Iraq. Earthquake in Indonesia. Gang violence in Toronto. Smoking ban throughout Ontario. Barry Bonds passing Babe Ruth's homerun record. Yes there is enough news lately to fill a good sized city newspaper. But what are people really concerned with? Shiloh Nouvel Jolie-Pitt. That's right. The baby of Brad and Angelina. Or should I say the baby of Bragelina? Or is it Angel Pitt? Or...well does it matter? Evidently it does. This news was so important the country they had the baby in, Namibia, was considering having a National Holiday on the day the baby was born. Almost every newspaper and magazine covered the birth. Most magazines had it as their cover story. You would think the baby was the second coming. Or had number 666 inscribed on its head. If not, Ms. Jolie being so fond of tattoos, could always add it on the baby later.

And in other news the price of gas keeps skyrocketing and Iran builds up its nuclear arsenal. But instead we take comfort in the knowledge that Janet Jackson has lost 60 pounds...Britney Spears is a bad mother...the Olson twins are too skinny....and Paris Hilton has another boyfriend.

And while AIDS is ravishing Africa and hurricanes are destroying homes in the United States, we pay millions of dollars to buy magazines about the love life of Jennifer Aniston. Will she hitch up with Vince Vaughn? I am not immune. Even I know every sordid detail of the hot celebrities. But I can't help be dismayed that millions of people vote for the winners of American Idol but sit on their couches on election day when it comes time to vote for the President. This is the same in Canada except on a smaller scale. Ben Mulroney and Sass Jordan are no match for Simon Cowell and Ryan Seacrest. Regardless, more people probably know the runners up on these Idol shows than most of the candidates in any of political election. But shouldn't our idols be scientists, world leaders, doctors and inventors? How many people can even name more than a handful of living scientists? Or even one? Can you?

Do we just want to bury our heads in the sand and pretend there is not a world out there that is headed for destruction? Or is it just that we need comfort stories.

Just as comfort food can fill that gap in our stomachs and give us a feeling of temporary euphoria, so do these light-hearted entertainment stories. It is an easy read (or easy watch if on TV). We can read without straining our minds. It can be a stress release after a hard day at the office.

This is harmless enough as long as we don't let it become our major source of information. We cannot simply read the light stories and increasingly skip over the in-depth articles. We cannot ignore TIME and MACLEANS in favour of PEOPLE, US, THE WEEKLY SCOOP, and even the NATIONAL ENQUIRER. If we do, we will start to see the world through the eyes of movie stars, models, and rock singers. Unless it is a cause from Bono, the lead singer for the band U2, it will go unnoticed or banished to page 38 of the newspaper.

There is nothing wrong with reading entertainment stories and the adoption plans of Jessica Simpson. But occasionally, take the time out to read a story that some journalist has researched exhaustively in order to inform you of something of great importance to the world we live in. So after reading this fluff article, flip the pages in this fine paper and read some of the outstanding articles from other great columnists, ones that do not include the names Lindsay Lohan or Tom Cruise.

Danny Andru
Dan the City Guy

Janene Greer became a Pampered Chef consultant by accident. A friend called her at 6:15 one evening in September of 2004 and invited Janene to a Pampered Chef show at 7 o'clock. With such short notice and two young children at home, Janene said she almost declined the invitation. But she did go and she's very happy now that she did. Impressed with the products offered by Pampered Chef, Janene decided she would like to have more and the best way to stock her cupboards with the products that were demonstrated at that show was to have a show of her own. That evolved to organizing shows at other people's homes as a sales consultant and now she is an independent sales director for Pampered Chef. She currently has about 15 consultants working under her directorship.

'I thought I'd do six shows and that would be it,' she said. Pampered Chef requires a commitment of at least six shows of its sales consultants. But Janene enjoyed the shows and the free product she received, along with the commission cheques and the freedom that the flexible schedule offers. 'It made me feel like I was contributing [financially] to the family,' she said. Her husband Derek Greer is a successful home builder and contractor.

Janene admits that before she became involved with Pampered Chef she didn't have the reputation of being a good cook. In fact, more than one of the people who attended hers and Derek's wedding joked that Derek was in danger of starving to death if he had to rely on Janene's cooking, or that he had better like Kraft Dinner if their marriage was going to be a success.

The Pampered Chef cookware gave Janene some incentive to hone her cooking skills. That first show she attended showed her how easy it was to cook with the products and even provided recipes to go with the cookware. Derek and his and Janene's daughter Jordyn, 6, and son Jakob, 5, are in no danger of starving, or living on a menu of just a few recipes.

There are a lot of things Janene likes about the Pampered Chef program but one of the main advantages is the fact that she can work as little or as much as she wants. It gives her the flexibility to spend time with the kids and really enjoy them while they are young. 'I can take the kids to soccer or baseball,' she said. And she doesn't have to worry about taking time off if one of the kids has a doctor's appointment.

Janene does an average of two shows a week. In most cases, that involves going to a host's home and actually using the Pampered Chef products to prepare a number of dishes. 'The products sell themselves when people see them used,' she said.



A Pampered Chef

by Jerry Grozelle

In May, Janene did her 100th show. It was at a former consultant's home and the host made a special occasion of it to celebrate the milestone. 'No two shows are the same,' Janene said. It's never boring. At any show, Janene says she can meet a dozen or more new people. And of those new contacts, there is usually two or three who want to host a show. 'The amount of people I meet is incredible,' she said. 'The show is a social evening, we try to make it fun.'

Pampered Chef offers some great incentives, Janene says. People who host a show in their homes get free products and discounts on the hundreds of

items offered by the company. Everything from cookware, gadgets, stoneware, barbecue tools and items for entertaining is available. 'It's basically everything for the kitchen,' Janene said. The product line is always evolving. New products are launched twice a year, in March and September.

Incentives also take the form of trips, and in Janene's case, she has earned enough sales points or a trip for two to Greece. She said Pampered Chef doesn't do anything half way. Everything from the flights to the hotel is first class all the way. Janene's mother-in law Nancy Lee is going with her. Husband Derek is in the process of building a new family home south of Kinmount and didn't want to take the time off.

Bridal showers, Janene says, are a great way to help a bride-to-be equip her kitchen. She said she has done bridal shower shows with 50 people in attendance. Each sale at the show adds to the gifts the bride can choose for her own kitchen.

'There's a great guarantee on the products,' Janene said. 'And there are lots of items.'

Pampered Chef is a community-minded company. It has a program called 'Round Up', which has nothing to do with a cattle drive. With the Round Up program, if a show generates \$975 in sales, for example, the amount is rounded up to an even \$1,000 and the \$25 difference is donated to the local Food Bank.

Most shows are held in the host's home in an evening or on a weekend since the majority of the attendees have daytime jobs. Janene said the actual demonstration takes about two hours.

Pampered Chef recently celebrated its 25th year of operation in the United States and its 10th year in Canada.

The flexible schedule offered by Pampered Chef gives Janene the opportunity to operate another business, which she calls 'Slide Show Memories', where she takes photographs from clients and puts them on a DVD so they can be viewed on a television. Wedding photos, family events, or chronicling baby's first year are among the subjects that can be made into a DVD slide show.

Janene is also a figure skating coach in the winter months. A 9 to 5 job would make it difficult for her to do the other things that are important to her, so Pampered Chef is the perfect fit for her lifestyle. 'I like to be busy,' she said.

Anyone interested in hosting a Pampered Chef show can contact Janene Greer at 705-488-1881 (a Kinmount number) and she can arrange to do the show herself or have one of her network of consultants nearby set up. Or, if you plan to attend the Kinmount Fair on Labour Day weekend, look for her booth at the fair.

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The Outdoors Life

June means bass

By Steve Galea

The older I get, the more I come to appreciate June.

I used to look upon this month as thirty more days that stood between now and hunting season. I didn't appreciate the miraculous return of the monarchs or the skittish dance of the Tiger Swallowtails as they bounced like delicate marionettes over the meadows. The call of a loon, as it flew at dusk towards a nearby lake, did not matter nearly as much as the cry of a lone goose gliding, wings set, into the decoys.

I'm happy to say that those unappreciative days are long gone. Now I'm in awe of June, for it holds the opportunity to chase pike, walleye, muskie, panfish, trout, and, at its tail end, bass.

Each of these has its time and place, but in my mind, June is all about bass. In central Ontario, we are blessed with bass lakes around each and every corner. And therein lies the charm for me.

Like or hate them, bass are a fish of the people. They are plentiful and easily caught, yet a person can fish a lifetime without setting a hook into a real trophy.

So what is a trophy bass? Most people consider five-pounds for a largemouth and four for a smallmouth as entry points into that special realm. Personally, I trust few fish scales and almost no anglers to estimate the correct weight of a bass. Instead, I rely on a tape measure. To me, a twenty-inch fish of either species is impressive - each, depending on girth could approach trophy weights.

As I'm writing this, we're just days away from the opener. Like most serious fans of bass, I'm readying my gear and topping up my tackle box too. Now is also the time to check the line on your reels and re-spool if needed. These things will make the difference on opening day.

Although I also fish with spinning gear, I decided long ago that the most enjoyable way for me to fish for bass was with a fly rod. Few people know this, but here in North America, the history of fly fishing began with bass, not trout.

Like or hate them, bass are a fish of the people. They are plentiful and easily caught, yet a person can fish a lifetime without setting a hook into a real trophy.

Bass are tailor-made for fly fishing. They're aggressive and eager to take almost any offering you put in front of them.

Of course, with both smallmouth and largemouth bass, there are hundreds of other exciting ways to catch them. But whether fishing with spinning gear, bait casters, or a fly rod, I always start with top water presentations if conditions are right. To me, this is simply the most enjoyable way to catch bass. Top water lures imitate frogs or dying baitfish for the most part and bass are suckers for them. And, few angling thrills can compare to seeing a bruised bass explode through the surface of the water - it's almost heart stopping.

But, as I said, you need the right conditions to make the most of top water lures. This means placid water. It only makes sense - the more chop on the water, the less that the splash of your lure stands out. Also, top water presentations work best at the beginning and end of day when the sun is lower. When using top water lures, a good rule of thumb is to chug or twitch the bait and then let it sit until the ripples die off. Bass usually hit on the pauses and sometimes you'll even see them stalking your lure.

Basically, bass relate to protective cover and hiding places from which to spring ambushes of their own. Anything that satisfies those conditions is worth fishing.

An angler seeking large-mouth bass should target flooded stumps or logs that have fallen into the water from shore. The drop offs into old creek

beds, along with weed lines, as well as man-made structures like docks and old duck blinds are also good places to start. Any open spot or indentation in the lily pads or pickerel rushes is classic. Beaver lodges are prime too.

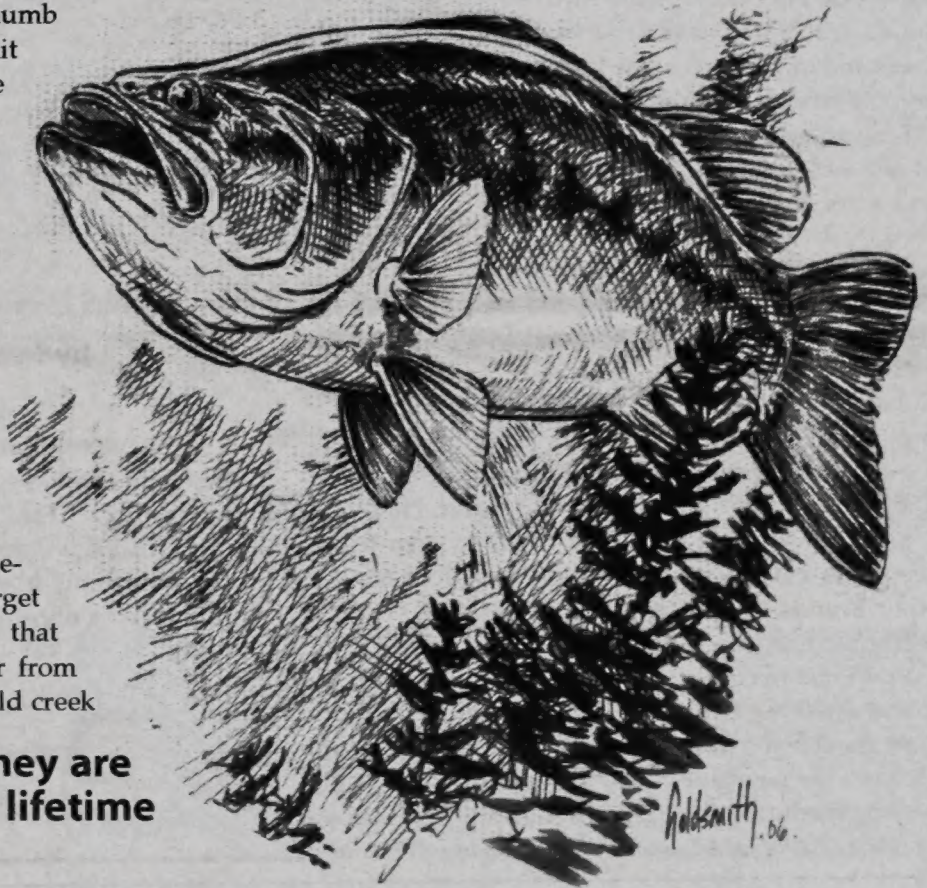
Likewise, smallmouth bass anglers should work submerged boulders and downed timber adjacent to deeper water. Rocky points, shoals, and creek mouths and underwater humps are also good bets. And don't forget that smallies also relate to weed beds.

I'll end with one last caution that, if heeded, will make the bass fishing better for us all. Leave spawning bass alone. As I write this, just prior to the season, bass are on their nests. No matter how you justify it, it's not okay to catch and release them at this time - the season is closed for a reason. The minute you pull them off their nests, panfish will raid them and harm future year classes.

When you see a bass nest steer clear. Let them do their thing. We bass anglers have from the last Saturday in June to the end of November to do ours. And, if you ask me, that's a fair arrangement.

by steve galea

Steve Galea is the Courier's outdoors columnist and he'd love to hear from you. To suggest column ideas, pose questions, or tell your fish stories, contact him at TheOutdoorLife@aol.com



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A combination of computer knowledge and mechanical ability has led Haliburton's Lindsay Roberts to a new career.

With experience in computer aided drafting (CAD) and computer aided manufacturing (CAM) as well as the confidence to delve into the bowels of a computer to replace and modify parts, Roberts decided to have a go at building his own CNC (computer numerically controlled) router set-up.

'The computer tells the router what to do and when to do it,' he explained. Roberts said he stumbled onto the CNC router system online about three or four years ago and, he says, 'I thought, I'd like to do this.'

A comparable manufactured CNC router system would cost about \$15,000 U.S. to buy, but Roberts said by building it himself, it cost him a fraction of that amount. But it wasn't an easy task. Many of the specialized components aren't available in Canada, so he had to order them from the United States. The servo motor came from Seattle, Washington, some bearings came from Michigan, the control board was ordered from Texas and other parts came from Chicago. 'I have no complaints with the U.S. suppliers,' Roberts said.

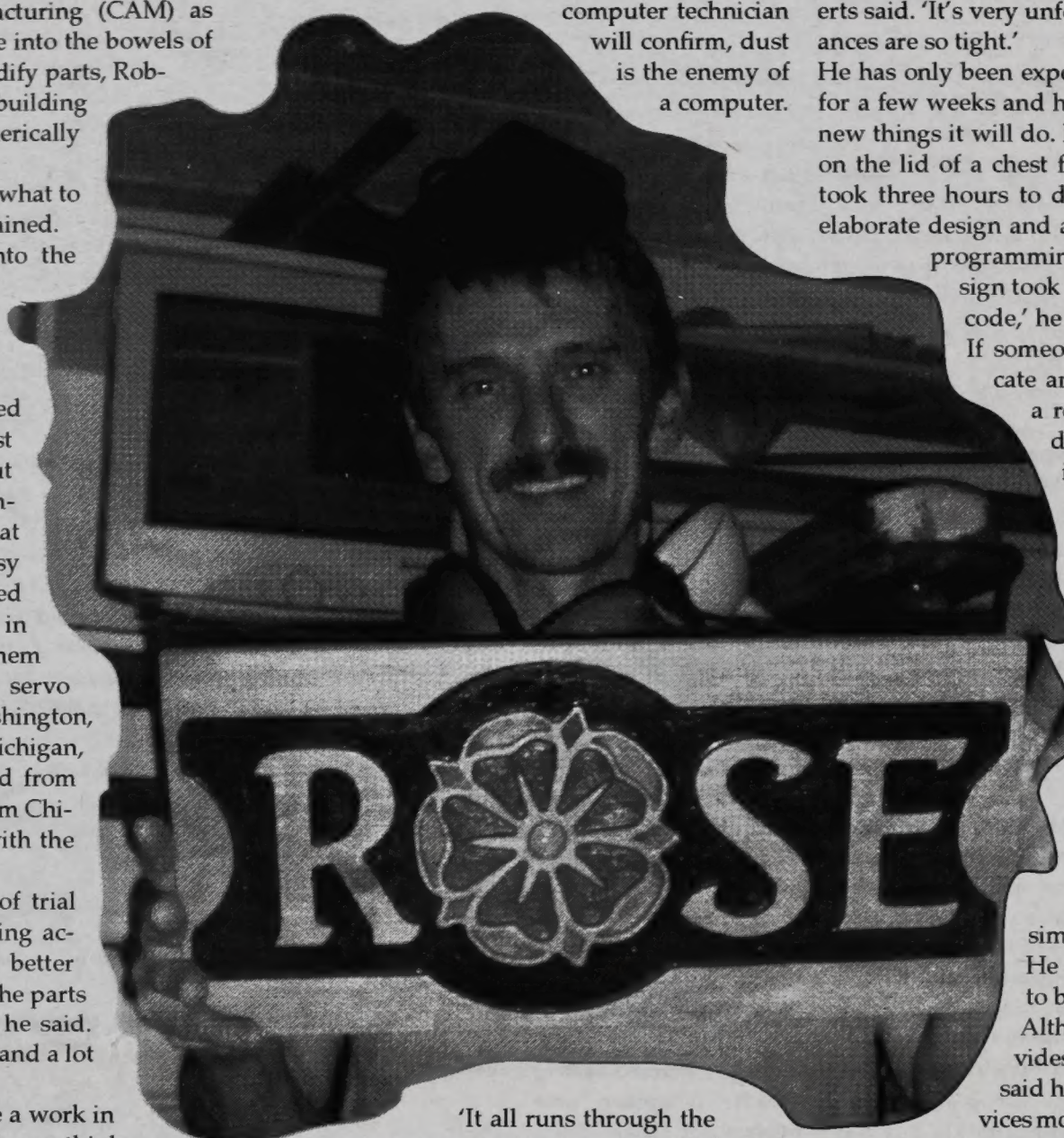
There was a certain amount of trial and error, but he has it working according to plan. It took 'the better part of a month' to source all the parts and complete the fabrication, he said. 'There were a lot of late nights and a lot of 2 a.m. sessions.'

Roberts admits it will likely be a work in progress for a while yet. 'I'm always thinking of ways to make it better,' he said.

The router he uses is a Porter Cable unit. He said it has a more positive locking chuck system that keeps the cutting bits in place better than some other brands. Reliability is important. 'If you're working on an expensive piece of wood, you don't want the bit to come loose,' he said. 'It would ruin the whole thing and you'd have to start all over.' Roberts doesn't think he'll have any competition in this area any time soon. Given the expense of buying a ready-made CNC router and the severe learning curve associated with mastering the com-

puter software, he should have the business locked up well into the future.

The computer controls everything the router does through a servo motor that moves it on three axis levels. It even tells the vacuum when to come on to keep the dust from filling the room. And as any computer technician will confirm, dust is the enemy of a computer.



'It all runs through the computer's printer port,' Roberts said. 'Basically, the computer thinks it is a printer printing in 3-D.'

So, what will a CNC router do, you ask? Well, it will do everything from basic wooden signs to elaborate carving of complicated trim for high-end

furniture and fixtures and specialized moulds for the manufacturing industry. It will do architectural millwork such as ornate mantle pieces and special designs for cabinets. He can work with wood, plastics, styrofoam and even some aluminum alloys.

'It can do full 3-D from a CAD or similar file,' Roberts said. 'It's very unforgiving, though. The tolerances are so tight.'

He has only been experimenting with the system for a few weeks and he is continually thinking of new things it will do. He did a Celtic knot design on the lid of a chest for his daughter. He says it took three hours to do the actual cutting of the elaborate design and about an hour and a half of programming at the computer. 'The design took about half a million lines of code,' he said.

If someone asked Roberts to duplicate an object and he didn't have a ready-made CAD file of the design, he has the capability to make a detailed, measured drawing of the object or pattern and input it into the computer.

What the system will do is limited only by the imagination, and the ability of the operator to program the computer to perform the required tasks.

Roberts had a booth at the recent home show in Haliburton and he said he made some good contacts there. He plans to do some similar shows in other areas. He doesn't expect his clientele to be limited to this area.

Although the services he provides won't be inexpensive, he said he will be able to provide services more economically than having someone custom hand-carve an item.

Roberts calls his business Grass Lake Design. His website is www.grasslakedesign.com. He can be reached by telephone at 457-2340.

By Jerry Grozelle

A different Router

Political Activism by Alice Miller

Do you ever feel that the government is totally out of touch on how you think or feel about a given situation? You can hear the results of an opinion poll and wonder, "Who are these aliens who actually think or feel this way? How come my view is not being represented?"

It is easy to think we are powerless and that our vote does not count for much. We are at the mercy of our elected representatives but in fact they are at ours. It is of paramount importance that we pay attention to what is happening in our governments since our elected representatives decisions can impact our world for years; beyond their four or five year mandates.

The Afghanistan War, genocide in the Darfur region in Sudan, and the Kyoto Accord are examples of policies that will have repercussions long after the elected representatives voting on the decisions will have lost their seats or retired from office. Yes, we do vote for those people to make those decisions on behalf of all of us, but unfortunately at the time of the vote these individual files are not on the ballot.

Politicians in Canada are voted by the populace who actually mark their ballot yet on some level they are representatives of our collective desires and wants whether we visit the ballot box or not. The election is simply a marker on what party is reflecting the majority opinion at any given time.

Most political parties and elected representatives are more interested in winning the next election versus honouring the people's wishes that got them elected in the first place. This is the power of the people in a democracy. Citizens of a country actually vote with their pocket books and their actions over the course of the governing cycle. It is the populace that wags the tale of the government.

If a large majority of people decide that they are going to buy energy efficient vehicles; recycle most of their garbage and seek alternative sources of energy you can be sure that the politicians are going to start creating policies and voting on laws that will assist people to fulfill their dreams of a healthier and sustainable environment.

If, on the other hand, the majority of people purchase gas guzzling Hum Vees and oversize SUVs and show no concern to any environmental practice that would be of benefit, most elected representatives would take a pass on any attempts to put forward environmentally sound public policies.

We do dictate the terms under which our government acts and when we recognize that power we can make a difference. When the organic movement was progressing through the early 90s, you could not buy any organic foods in the general grocery stores though they were available in specialized natural and health food stores. As the natural food industry picked the large grocery stores started to pay attention. The

big grocery stores started to carry organic carrots. People in the organic food movement were told to make sure they bought any organic foods in the big chains in order to encourage that practice. Money talks and the more people buying their organic products the more organic products the grocer would provide. The more suppliers providing organic food the cheaper and more available organic food would become. There are few grocers that do not carry organic foods anymore.

The organic food movement is an example of how the behaviours of citizens can impact the politicians and political winds of the country. With the advent of the internet we have the means to communicate, co-ordinate and gather with little to no expense and to great effect to create a groundswell of public opinion.

What do you think about a current local, national or global situation? How can you communicate your opinion? How can you act within your own area of influence? We are powerful and make a difference in our lives and to our world. We have to make a point of educating ourselves about the major issues and then choosing how we want to act. It may take days, weeks or years, but your impact can be felt if you push hard and far enough and it is a view that can be shared with enough people.

911-know when to call

You decide one day to see if 9-1-1 really works. It's simple. Just pick up the phone and dial 9-1-1. When someone answers, either hang up or say, "I was just testing the system." There is no reason for the police to respond; you were just doing a simple test. Right?

Another day - three desperate criminals break into your house. They are armed; they have killed before and they're not afraid of killing you or anyone else. Two of these crooks take the rest of the family into another room, leaving one of the gang with you. Suddenly a scuffle breaks out in the other room; people are screaming and shouting. The crook watching you goes to the door to see what's happening. You grab the phone and dial 9-1-1 but before it's answered, the crook snatches the phone from you and either hangs up or says, "I was just testing the system."

How do the police detect the difference between scenarios 1 and 2? Two officers will respond in both cases. They will not be the smiling friendly cops dropping by to say hello.

They don't know what they might be facing. It could be you enjoying a beer and watching TV, having satisfied your curiosity about 9-1-1 or it could be crooks not afraid to shoot anyone. It could be you and spouse having a domestic dispute or it could be that someone has gone berserk and is smashing the place up. The police will not be satisfied until they have thoroughly searched your premises and have privately interviewed everyone there.

Remember, EVERY 9-1-1 call gets a response. If you state your emergency as being fire or medical, you will get the requested service; otherwise, you get the police. But the important

point is, SOMEONE will show up at your door. If it is not a real emergency, that someone is going to be very unhappy.

It's an emergency when you need help right now! Without immediate assistance, property or life could be lost. A car accident is not an emergency unless there's serious injury. Discovering someone has broken in is not an emergency; spotting someone trying to break in is. For non-emergency situations, call:

Police: 1-888-310-1122

Medical: 1-866-797-0000 (Telehealth Ontario)

Remember - your 9-1-1 call is answered promptly and your name and address are on the screen. That stays there even though you hang up immediately.

Teach your children about the responsible use of 9-1-1. There are many stories of children as young as four or five dialing 9-1-1 because Mommy or Daddy collapsed on the floor or fell and became unconscious. The young child sometimes saves a life!

There are many more stories of untended children dialing 9-1-1 just for excitement. Teach them to dial 9-1-1 only when danger threatens.

Dialing 9-1-1 from a cell phone is another matter. You have no idea which call centre is answering. It could be Smith Falls or it could be Thunder Bay. Nothing appears on their screen. You will have to give specific information as to where you are - you should name local towns or the county you are in and know the proper name of the road you are on and some idea of where you are on that road. Do not hang up! The requested service may need additional information as to your location.

by peter charters



Lock down in Bancroft

North Hastings Children's Services held their 3rd annual 'Jail and Bail' fundraiser recently at Vance Motors in Bancroft. Participants were selected to be arrested and caged in town as part of the fundraiser. The 'criminals' were brought to Vance Motors and placed in a mock jail cell for a minimum of half an hour. They then had to raise at least \$100 to get themselves out of the slammer. While serving their hard time, volunteers cooked up a mean BBQ, and locked up or not everyone had a great time. For more information, or to volunteer your time, please contact the North Hastings Children's Services, call 613-332-0179

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Profiles - Jerry Grozelle

Writing has never been a difficult task for me. I used to entertain my friends and family by writing colourful stories, often turning mundane personal events into stories that would bring a smile or occasionally a belly-laugh.

But when Publisher Hillo asked me to write a profile of myself for The Highlands Courier, I wasn't sure I could pull it off without making it look like a resume. But, she insisted, so the following is a synopsis of what I've done over my career as a journalist.

If you don't really care about my journalistic background but may have an interest in Jerry Grozelle, the person, you could be forgiven if you skip over the next several paragraphs to get the scoop on the personal information - as much as I'm willing to reveal.

The journalistic background - The publisher and editor of a small weekly in Lakefield took a chance and through a government program that paid part of my salary, I became a feature writer for the Kawartha Sun, a seasonal publication of the Lakefield Leader.

Clifford Maynes was the editor of the Kawartha Sun that summer of 1979 and with his guidance and encouragement, I learned enough from May to October that publisher Bill Dickson decided to

hire me as a reporter for The Leader.

Marianne Beaudette was the editor of The Leader and she also contributed to my on-the-job education. Over the next couple of years, I moved up to sports editor and then took over as editor of The Leader. The Leader was sold and several months later I was laid off. In September of 1983 I moved to Lindsay to take a reporter job at the Lindsay Daily Post. Within a year, I was promoted to sports editor, a position I held until the summer of 1990 when I left.

I freelanced for the Minden Times for a year or more until a full-time job opening presented itself. I served as sports editor and general reporter at The Times for about nine years. When the paper sold in November of 2002, I became news editor. The paper sold again in August of 2004 and six months later the company decided to restructure and I was offered a severance package in exchange for my resignation.

During that time, I also did some work for the Oldtimers' Hockey News; I co-edited a handbook for disabled people and contributed to Ontario Out of Doors magazine as a field editor and contributing writer.

Now, I am a full-time freelance writer, photographer and editor who is happy to be involved with The Highlands Courier.

I do some freelance work for Ontario Out of Doors magazine and I plan to expand my magazine writing as much as possible.

In addition, I recently designed an ad for a local real estate agent and did some photography work for him. Hopefully, that will lead to more such work for him and other real estate agents.

Info of a more personal nature - Those of you who have met me or know me to see me may not know the circumstances behind why I walk with a cane. To make a long story short, I was in the path of a .22 calibre bullet that shattered two vertebrae at shoulder level. No, it wasn't a hunting accident. I happened to be asleep in a chair in front of the fireplace in cottage on the shore of Sturgeon Lake near Lindsay at the time. It was about 4 a.m. The shooter was the host of a party I had attended and he had no intention of harming anyone. One serious error in judgment resulted in a life-changing experience - for both of us.

That was more than 36 years ago and I've learned to adapt and to build on my strengths.

As an avid outdoorsman, I am involved locally as a director of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association and as a member of the Minden District Fish and Wildlife Advisory Council. I have assisted with the Haliburton/Minden Ducks Unlimited Fundraising Committee, as well as its counterpart in Lindsay for several years. I was recently asked to help with organization of a Minden Ducks Unlimited Fundraising Committee.

I have been a member of the Minden Terry Fox Run organizing committee for several years, serving as chair or co-chair. It is truly gratifying to have such wonderful support from a community the size of Minden and a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of volunteers.

Occasionally I'll be asked by someone I've recently met if I'm married. My standard reply is: 'No, but I'm open for offers.'

The woman of my dreams would be independently wealthy, so she could keep me in a manner to which I've never been accustomed. Ideally, she would own a Bass Pro Shop or Cabela's franchise as well as some serious acreage in New Mexico where we could spend the winters hunting for javelinas or wild boar and fishing for monstrous largemouth bass.

Alas, such a woman has eluded me. Maybe some day I'll find one who is at least tolerant of my outdoors enthusiasm. Fortunately, I've learned not to hold my breath in anticipation of meeting this potential mate.

Over the years I've been fortunate to work with and meet some fantastic people. I have interviewed some very interesting people over the past 26-plus years and I hope that continues for many years into the future.

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Dear Friends...

What is the proper way to behave at a funeral? What should you say-or not say? How do you explain death to children? What is involved in pre-planning and pre-arranging a funeral? These are human events that we all deal with at some time in our lives. The more we understand about them, the better prepared we can be. In up-coming editions of the *Courier*, we will try to answer your questions and concerns about death and funerals. You may think that it's a bit unusual to read a regular column from a funeral home, but these editions will bring you important information and advice you can use. It is our contribution to the community, and we hope you'll take a moment to read it.

You see, we do more than simply arrange funerals and provide help and support in times of need. The M.G. Daly Funeral Home is an important resource in the community, providing brochures, offering referrals to local support groups and grief support, and helping families understand and deal with emotions involved in loss, grief and mourning.

So please consider this a gesture of support for the families in our community. We will have different topics each month and we hope you find them both interesting and useful. Meanwhile, if you have any questions about funerals, our services, or other matters, please call us. We are here to serve you any time of the day or night.

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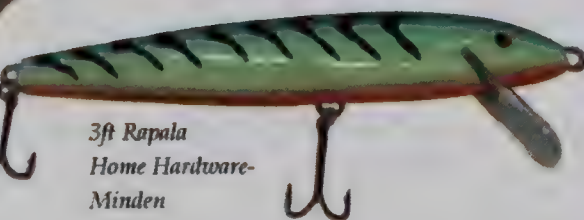
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This month's Groovy Baby!

This month our groovy baby was found chilling out with her mom and a double flavoured slushy in Harcourt at the convenience store. Do you know a groovy baby? Email your groovy baby photo to: hillo@sympatico.ca



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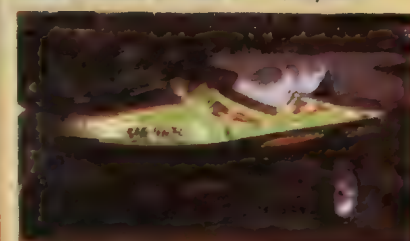
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Suddenly Single Sports Scrawl

by lorne greer

June is upon us, and with it comes the excitement of the NHL and NBA playoffs winding down as the wheat separates from the chaff. We look at these and other events this month in the topsy-turvy world of fun and games.

The Edmonton Oilers are poised to bring Lord Stanley's mug home to Canada for the first time since the miracle Habs run of 1993. What a bunch of gritty, but no-name skaters! Some of these guys aren't even recognized by their own families but they've bought into the team concept which is, work about 3 times as hard as the opposition. Their geriatric opponents are the Carolina Hurricanes, who are defying Father Time, the nursing home and the old-age pension by wheeling (literally) into the Finals.

The new-look Jays are an improvement over previous models, but they have the killer instinct of an earthworm. 8 times this season they've been poised to sweep a series, and 8 times they have dropped the last game. They're hanging around

the Red Sox and Yankees, but the pitching has to start matching the hitting. It can't be Roy Halladay and pray for 4 days of rain every week. Getting A.J. "The Tin Man" Burnett back and healthy would solidify Toronto as legit contenders.

The Scrawler would generally rather burn his retinas out with a hot poker than watch soccer, but with the World Cup sparking up, the ban may be dropped for a couple of games. Teams like Brazil can make the sport semi-watchable, but there are still too many 0-0 and 1-0 games for this scrawlers liking. Don't care much for the coin-flip idea of a shootout to decide games either. The net is the size of Charles Barkley for pete's sake, it just comes down to which goalie guesses better at which way to blindly leap.

Aside from him being a beautiful racehorse, the Scrawler now fully understands why the owner of Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro want so desperately to keep him alive after his gruesome leg-break. If he recovers (only a 50/50 proposition) he is worth a reported \$200 million in stud fees. Which illustrates 2 points. The owner may be mind-bogglingly rich in few years, and the Scrawler has changed his mind and would now prefer to come back as a horse instead of a dog in his next life. And what a life it would be!

Close-minded men everywhere are getting up in arms about teenage phenom Michelle Wie trying to qualify for the mens U.S. Open this month. How dare she tread upon the hallowed ground of the male? Hey, the Scrawler isn't a big fan of automatic exemptions for women, but if she is qualifying (and kicking the butts of several hundred men) the old-fashioned way, more power to her. She is one of a handful of women capable of competing with the guys, and I think it embarrasses them, plain and simple.

How about a hand for Canada's own Steve Nash. He looks as though he washed his hair in a frying pan full of bacon grease, weighs about a buck-sixty soaking wet, and is as unconventional a player as they come. All that aside, this longshot from B.C. just won his second consecutive MVP award, and led his injured and undersized Phoenix Suns to the Western Conference Finals. Unbelievable really. In the land of Shaq, Kobe, LeBron and D-Wade the skinny little second-round draft pick is the cream of the crop. Congrats Mr. Nash (and for the sake of all that is good and pure, please get a haircut.)

by lorne greer



Letter to Editor

Let me begin by saying that as you know, I think your paper is fantastic. Congratulations on the awards, you deserve it for sure.

But...I did want to pass on my thoughts about the last cover. I'm likely to be the only person who did not find this funny. I found it very disturbing. I did not want to look at it. I can't imagine how that poor creature could have survived that. If it didn't suffocate to death, I can't imagine how a kind hearted human could have helped it without risking killing it. Either way, that life considered garbage, just another casualty in the war we humans wage against the planet and all her creatures. I've seen too many images like this. A fox with its tongue caught on an partially open tin can, a snake stuck in a pop can half sliced and still alive, a bird with its beak sealed shut with a plastic bread clip, on & on & on.

It's just not funny. I would love to know what Jerry (Grozelle) did after he took the picture.

Thanks for taking this in.

Jacque Lopez
Maynooth, ON

Note from Publisher:

We apologize for any interpretation of 'fun' with the situation our front cover skunk found himself in. I still wonder what happened to the poor thing. Jerry did try to think of ways to help the animal out, but unfortunately wasn't able to come up with a plan before the skunk wandered off. I like to think his buddies helped him out. AH

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War, Warlords, War Crimes

Afghanistan in context

by Alex Hemingway
Afghanistan 1979-2001

On Dec. 22, 1979, Soviet forces began to enter Afghanistan. In the decade of war and occupation that followed, over 15,000 Soviet troops and one million mujahideen fighters and Afghan civilians were killed. Yet it was the Islamic fundamentalist mujahideen, backed with billions of dollars in arms and funding by the West, who would ultimately prevail. By 1992, three years after the final withdrawal of its Soviet backers, the government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan fell.

An arduous civil war began, fought between rival warlords of the former mujahideen. The civil war was brutal, and the warlords became known for their rapes, purges, summary executions and repression of women, among other crimes. These actions were condemned worldwide. By 1996, however, the tide had turned against the warlords as another fundamentalist group, the Taliban, began its rise to power, taking control of the national capital of Kabul.

The ruling warlords were so cruel and violent that most Afghans welcomed their defeat at the hands of the Taliban, who were credited with bringing some semblance of stability and security to Afghanistan, as well as improving the economy, which had been crippled by the widespread practice among warlords of demanding payoffs from businesses.

While warlords continued to control many parts of the country for some time, by 2001 most of Afghanistan was under Taliban rule. While the Taliban were swept into power amid widespread disgust with the vicious crimes of their predecessors, they too became known as repressive and brutal. In recent years, they became notorious in the West for their repression of women and authoritarian rule.

Afghanistan after 9/11

On Sept. 11, 2001, 19 hijackers (15 Saudi Arabians, two Emirati, one Egyptian and one Lebanese – no Afghans) carried out the infamous terrorist attacks in the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Following the attacks, focus turned to the alleged mastermind of the attacks, Osama bin Laden, who was based in Afghanistan. Amid calls for calm by victims' families and a mourning American public, government rumblings began about possible military attacks against Afghanistan. Aid agencies

and the United Nations warned that the threat of bombing would put nearly 2.5 million Afghans at risk of starvation, but the US contended that military force might be necessary to capture those behind the 9/11 attacks.

At the time, British Prime Minister Tony Blair asserted that, "There is no alternative [to a military attack] unless the Taliban regime do what they have so far obviously failed to do and yield up bin Laden." Though largely ignored in the West, the Taliban had stated explicitly through their information minister, Qudrutullah Jamal, that "Anyone who is responsible for this act, Osama or not, we will not side with him." Speaking of bin Laden, they agreed to "give him up," on the condition that they be shown evidence of his involvement. The White House rejected this proposal out of hand, promising there would be "no negotiations, no discussions" with the Taliban.

In fact, there had previously been negotiations, well before the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and the Taliban offered to extradite bin Laden to a neutral third country. In addition, following 9/11, as Britain's Telegraph reported on Oct. 4, 2001, they offered to give up bin Laden to an international tribunal in Pakistan, even without being shown evidence.

With the offers to turn over perpetrators quietly dismissed, on Oct. 7, 2001, the American-led coalition began its assault on Afghanistan. The military forces of the US, Britain, Canada, and other countries co-ordinated with an Afghan group calling themselves the "Northern Alliance" to overthrow the Taliban.

Between 3,800 and 5,000 Afghan civilians were killed by the initial bombing campaign, and 20,000 to 50,000 eventually died as a result of the invasion (according to investigations by University of New Hampshire economist Marc Herold and British journalist Jonathan Steele). The country, particularly outside the capital of Kabul, transformed into the cauldron of violence and unrest it remains over four years later.

The Northern Alliance Warlords and Afghanistan today

The US-led coalition allied itself with the "Northern Alliance," and one might rightly wonder: who are they? The answer to this question had been well known

to the governments of the invading countries, but ordinary Afghans knew it even better. The Northern Alliance is comprised of the murderous warlords who were finally thrown out of power a few short years before the 2001 invasion. With US backing, they would come to play a disastrous role in shaping the course of events in post-war Afghanistan.

In December 2001, with the Taliban government defeated, an agreement was reached among Afghani exiles meeting in Bonn, Germany. Hamid Karzai, an Afghan returning from exile in the US, was installed to power and would soon be named interim president of Afghanistan.

Following the Bonn Agreement, Northern Alliance warlords were given prominent positions in the interim government, including in key departments such as defence, industry and agriculture. The leading Afghani women's rights group, RAWA, which is unequivocally opposed to both the Northern Alliance and the Taliban, had expressed hope for reform under Karzai. However, they quickly became one of his administration's harshest critics, decrying its corruption and collusion with warlord extremists. While the interim government maintained relative stability in Kabul under the protection of multinational troops, the rest of the country fell squarely into the hands of the despised warlords.

To this day, the warlords wield prominent, even dominant influence in the US-backed Karzai government. Human Rights Watch observed that last December Karzai again directly appointed notorious human rights abusers to Afghanistan's upper parliamentary house, including former defence minister Mohammad Qasim Fahim. The group also concluded that an astounding 60 per cent of the deputies currently sitting in the lower house have been linked to human rights abuses.

Sadly, this reflects the reality of the human rights situation in Afghanistan today. Approximately 600 children under the age of five die every day in Afghanistan, according to UNICEF, "mostly due to preventable illnesses." While women technically have more rights than before, they are not able to exercise them due to lack of security. Afghans are regularly detained arbitrarily, tortured, and denied due process rights.

Infrastructure is in ruins and rebuilding efforts are made difficult by lack of funding and rampant corruption. Much of what is spent is wasted as contracts go to foreign firms whose bids are, in many cases, 10 times more expensive than their Afghan counterparts. Organizations inside and outside of Afghanistan cite insecurity as the top human rights issue in the country.

continued on next page



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Who is responsible for all this insecurity? Groups like RAWA, all the major human rights organizations, and even Hamid Karzai agree that the US-backed warlords are a greater threat to security in Afghanistan than the Taliban.

US Operations in Afghanistan

Throughout its occupation of Afghanistan, under the auspices of Operation Enduring Freedom, in its quest to hunt down Taliban and Al Qaeda members, the US has continued to collaborate closely with the Northern Alliance warlords.

Over the repeated objections of groups like the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, RAWA, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International, the US-led military forces have undermined the rule of law in Afghanistan by backing the criminal warlords, arbitrarily detaining and denying due process rights to Afghans, and using "excessive force . . . in residential areas." Amnesty condemns what it calls "grave human rights violations" by US and coalition forces, including "killing of civilians and torture of prisoners."

This kind of conduct has "generated tremendous resentment against the international community" and "made a mockery of respect for justice," in the words of Human Rights Watch. Most critically, it is driving the crippling state of insecurity in Afghanistan.

Canada's role

In recent months, Canada has endorsed and contributed to this counterproductive, ostensibly "counter-terrorist" role in Afghanistan by joining Operation Enduring Freedom. The Martin government made the plans to scale down our peacekeeping role in Kabul and join the US-led combat operations. These plans came to a head in February under the new Harper government when 2,200 Canadian troops began to arrive in Kandahar, ready to hunt down and "destroy" pockets of Taliban loyalists in the region.

The Canadian government is certainly aware that this type of mission is doing more harm than good, if they are listening at all to those they claim to be helping. The reality is not unknown to Canadian officials. In an astonishing display of self-contradiction, Major General Andrew Leslie – describing why Canada must be in Afghanistan for at least 20 years – explained that "Every time you kill an angry young man overseas, you're creating 15 more who will come after you."

Still, Canadians are told this is what we must do. While Canadian troops are abroad, we must stop questioning our leaders, whose noble aims ordinary citizens cannot fully comprehend. While our troops are in danger, we should "roll up our sleeves" and prepare ourselves for the "inevitable" deaths we must endure on the march for

freedom.

Short-term solutions

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission has developed extensive action plans and recommendations on transitional justice, women's rights, children's rights, human rights monitoring, and education. Supporting their work is a potential starting point for making a positive impact in Afghanistan.

Human rights groups have stressed the need for security in Afghanistan if the country is to be reconstructed. However, the kind of security assistance they've called for is peacekeeping, not "counterinsurgency" operations, which engender "tremendous resentment" and create scores of "angry young men." According to rights groups and many other observers, what Afghanistan needs from the outside world right now is what Afghani and international rights groups have been calling for all along: an end to support for criminal warlords, an end to torture and other abuses, respect for basic due process rights and the rule of law, support for existing domestic peace initiatives, and the commitment of a sufficient, neutral international peacekeeping force. (Troops from countries that have invaded Afghanistan should be excluded, of course, and if there is any justice, costs would be covered by reparations from those governments.)

Most of these short-term solutions involve no active effort of "aid"; they simply require the US, Canada, and their allies to stop doing harm.

Their own society on their own terms

Afghanistan's woes didn't appear out of thin air. Nor did they begin with the rise of the Taliban, nor even with the rise of the mujahideen warlords. Afghanistan has suffered a long history of foreign aggression and interference by Britain, the Soviet Union, and now the United States (with Canada's help) – interventions rooted in geopolitical manoeuvring and strategic interests more than in any concern for the long-term well being of the Afghani people.

Over 40 years ago, the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution 2131, declaring, "Armed intervention is synonymous with aggression." Article Six of the Resolution affirms "the right of self-determination and independence of peoples and nations, to be freely exercised without any foreign pressure, and with absolute respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Like every nation, the people of Afghanistan are entitled to self-determination and freedom from aggression – the right to develop their own society on their terms.

www.dominionpaper.ca

It Doesn't Make Census!

The world's largest weapons manufacturer is processing Canada's census forms

by Chris Arsenault

It's census time in Canada again. This year is the first, however, that the world's largest weapons manufacturer will be paid millions to crunch the nation's numbers.

Lockheed-Martin, which supplies Bradley fighting vehicles, F-22 warplanes, and other weapons to the American military, has been awarded the Canadian government's contract to process data from the census.

Some Canadians aren't happy about their tax dollars enriching a company whose existence is predicated on perpetual war; a few are even advocating people boycott the census until a public company – without military connections – is re-installed.

"Boycotting the census is about refusing to line the pockets of a company that actively seeks out more war to sell its weapons of mass destruction, nuclear arms, depleted uranium and weapons banned in Canada like land mines," says Tracey Glynn, a peace activist based in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

Lockheed-Martin posted more than \$31 billion in revenue in 2003. According to Human Rights Watch, part of this revenue came from producing components for land mines. Land mines don't differentiate between soldiers and toddlers and they continue killing long after peace treaties are signed.

According to Michael Barton, Lockheed's media relations officer in Canada, the company "is providing an automated data capture and coding system that will digitally capture information from respondent census questionnaires." He assures citizens of the 12 million households receiving the census that, "information collected will be under the control of Statistics Canada at all times."

When the census contract was first being discussed in 2002/03, StatsCan officials were to give Lockheed full control over all the data. StatsCan was forced to change the nature of the contract, however, due to public pressure – including a mass e-mail campaign coordinated by groups like CountMeOut.ca, and ViveLeCanada.ca.

"Given the public concerns, we have decided to limit the scope of this contract," said Ivan P. Fellegi, chief statistician of Canada, when the change was announced. "Under the new arrangement, only Statistics Canada employees will have access to completed census returns."

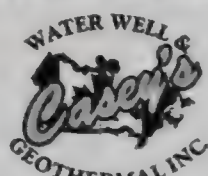
Pressure changed the policy once, and New Brunswickers like Tracey Glynn hope that, by boycotting the census, they can alter it for good.

Fellegi urges people not to boycott the census, arguing that it is a crucial and positive public policy tool. Critics are not debating the value of the census, however, but the moral backwardness of supporting a company that manufactures weapons of mass destruction.

Lockheed's stock value has tripled since the 9/11 attacks and the beginning of "The War on Terror," reports The New York Times. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a non-partisan national think tank, recently rated Lockheed Martin as one of the 10 worst corporations in the world.

According to Dana Brown a member of the Fredericton Social Network, "Through administering our census, Lockheed is profiting off of public tax dollars and now ordinary Canadians have innocent blood on their hands." www.dominionpaper.ca

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Home

at the cottage

FEATURE

As the fishing season fast approaches I am reminded of the ever popular weekend fish fry at the lake. It goes without saying that the neighbour next door has the best recipe and no matter who prepares it always seems to taste especially good when the fish is fresh from the lake.

There is nothing better tasting then beer battered fish on the fire pit. Here is my Beer Batter recipe.

12 ounce light beer
1 1/2 cups of flour
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp of paprika

Pour beer in a bowl and sift flour, salt, paprika into beer until the batter is light and frothy. This mixture will keep refrigerated for one week.

Dredge fish in flour and dip into batter prior to deep frying at 375 degrees.

Here are 2 very simple dips you can prepare for your next fish fry.

Dill dip

1/4 cup of sour cream
1/4 cup of mayonnaise
1 tsp of dried dill weed

Mix together, chill and serve on the side.

Clam dip

1 can of clams
1 3 ounce package of cream cheese
2tsp prepared horseradish
1 tsp lemon juice

Mix these ingredients together until smooth. Add one tsp of clam juice to cream cheese mixture. Add drained clams to mixture.

Chill and serve on the side.

I have experimented a little with fish on the fire. It is important to have some hot coals to cook this fabulous sweet and sour number. 45 minutes before you are ready toss foil wrapped potatoes into the hot coal to accompany this meal in a pouch.

SWEET AND SOUR PARCELS

2 tsp lemon juice
Salt and pepper for fish fillet
2 ounces of sliced mushrooms
3 chopped spring onions
6 tbsp of prepared sweet and sour sauce.
Prepare foil sheet. Place fish on foil with raised edges. Apply seasoning. Add vegetables and sauce. Fold over foil edges to make a pouch. Place on BBQ grill, fire pit grill for 10 minutes at a fairly high heat.

Lastly for those of you out there camping on the weekend this is a must try:

FISH CHOWDER à la CAMPING

2-3 quarts of boiling water
2 handfuls of dried mixed vegetables
1/2 handful of dried onions
2 dices potatoes

Cook these items for approximately 20 minutes add your 2" chunks of walleye/ bass to this mixture add 1 quart of dried milk

1/2 a stick of margarine
2 tsp of sugar
2 cubes of chicken broth.

If you are out there without your chicken broth cubes alternatively you can use 2 packages of Ramen noodles crushed. Add lots of garlic, cayenne and salt and pepper to taste.

You will be amazed at the flavour of this chowder.

Hope I have given you a few ideas of how to cook on the campfire.

Always popular follow-up desert is

SMORES

2 graham crackers
2 marshmallows
bunch of chocolate chips.

Place marshmallows and chocolate chips between the 2 crackers. Wrap in foil and place close to fire. Remove from fire and enjoy your warm oowey goowey desert.

*Keep on Cooking!
Dah B and Mrs. T*

Bring your shoe... to the barbecue



Ron Muirhead pitches to partner Lorne Carson at Branch 624's horse shoe game held every other Sunday at the Legion in Wilberforce. Registration is at 12pm, game begins 1pm. \$5.00 per player which includes a BBQ lunch.



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Visit www.compliments.ca for more savory shrimp tips.

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Summer Sizzler Shrimp Tips

- Compliments shrimp are individually frozen, meaning you can take out the amount of shrimp you need and pop the rest back into the freezer.
- Shrimp are easier to peel when still frozen.
- Shrimp absorb flavour almost immediately, so they don't need to marinate for long.
- To check if shrimp are cooked through, cut one in half. If it's opaque or almost white in the centre, it's done.
- Shrimp taste best when cooked quickly over a high heat.
- Shrimp will continue to cook for about a minute after you remove them from the barbecue.
- It only takes about three minutes to cook shrimp to juicy perfection.

Horoscopes

in the stars

FEATURE

Aries

On the 20th, a newly objective perspective clears something up. You might want to head back to the garden on the 26th and 27th, when you need some reflective time. On the 3rd and 4th, your clear eye and aptitude for self-expression help someone see the light. That person might return the favor on the 12th.

Taurus

On the 20th and 21st, you have the sense that things are moving to another plane -- one where the intellect (yours) meets the spirit (also yours). On the 25th, things free up and you progress with an ease you wouldn't have thought possible. Tune in to your emotional needs on the 19th to keep yourself balanced and happy. The 21st, the longest day of the year, is one of the best you've had yet. On the 5th, touch base with your family.

Gemini

The 20th is a day to go with the flow -- you could find some pretty spiritual depths if you do. On the 23rd, make some time for one-on-one chats. On the 25th, bring your insight to bear on whatever project is most important to you right now; the others can wait. By the 6th, some fresh ideas change your perspective, and on the 12th, take a long, hard, honest look at life as it is.

Cancer

On the 19th and 20th, turn your attention to work. By the 27th, you're right in the middle of some paradigm shifts in the group's dynamics. On the 4th, you might be able to let go in an important way, and on the 6th and 7th, you turn inward. On the 2nd, start the month by giving somebody some TLC.

Leo

On the 20th and 21st, a deep insight into yourself makes your work process -- and ways you can improve it -- clear in a new way. On the 22nd, use the momentum you already have to take your project public, and on the 23rd, don't forget that your willingness to be vulnerable is one of your strengths. On the 25th and 26th, check in with friends and family to ground yourself. Then get ready for a few fantastic days on the 6th, 7th and 8th.

Virgo

On the 22nd and 23rd, you've gotten that situation into safe hands: yours. The 27th could find you doing something to help an environmental cause -- you may be volunteering your time, your creative skills, your economic know-how or your energy. On the 21st, stay up late with some friends -- it's the longest day of the year! Offer to help a friend who's hurting on the 5th, and on the 7th, you start up the month with a bang.

Libra

On the 20th and 21st, some of these creative activities lead you to a whole new view of the world and your place in it. On the 24th, put some of your energy into making connections that could help you down the road. The 21st is the longest day of the year, so take advantage of all that light -- literally and metaphorically. By the 5th, you're at a turning point at work or home, and by the 8th, you have a good sense of which way you're turning.

Scorpio

You're seen in a very flattering light on the 26th and 27th, and on the 28th and 29th, you see your way to the solution to a tricky, tricky work problem. On the 30th, spend the day taking advantage of some free-flowing energy and push your work projects to completion. On the 5th and 6th, reevaluate how you spend your free time. On the 8th, solve a problem or two, then kick back and relax. Ah, summertime!

Sagittarius

On the 26th, you see (maybe in a fresh, sea-salt-and-sun-burn kind of way) how you can change an old habit that isn't helping you now. Spend the morning of the 27th on the phone with a friend who needs a push to get through a difficult phase. On the 3rd, take the day off and play hooky in the great outdoors if you can. Let your creativity run wild on the 8th.

Capricorn

On the 20th and 21st, you have a great idea for the neighborhood block-party fund-raising committee, and on the 24th, you make something thrilling happen. (Did you just buy a secondhand circus-grade popcorn popper for

your movie nights? Awesome.) On the 5th, call one of your relatives to say 'hello,' and on the 8th, take it easy. What a month!

Aquarius

On the 20th, someone calls on you for your organizational skills, and you willingly put them into action on the 22nd and 23rd. By the 27th, you're back out there in the thick of community service, giving of yourself like there's no tomorrow. Just be sure you get enough sleep! On the 1st, why not go to a solstice party, or host one yourself? You deserve a little celebration. You make an important discovery on the 6th, and on the 8th, you're lending another helping hand.

Pisces

On the 20th and 21st, you let an old hurt go. Never thought you could, did you? But you did, and look at how much better you feel. Spend some time alone on the 25th. The great energy you have on the 26th, 27th and the morning of the 28th will be all you'd hoped for, and more. On the 3rd and 4th, push through any resistance. Then, on the 7th, you can go ahead and coast. Weeee!

Dream Dictionary

Dream symbol: Skunk

Interpretation:

Externalizing your negativity.
Warding someone or someone off.
Feeling threatened.
Using or exhibiting powerful defence mechanisms.
Causing a fuss, raising a stink.
Inebriated, drunk as a skunk.

Dream symbol: Leak

Interpretation: Loss of power, energy or vitality, especially on the emotional side.
Something that's not stable, whole or particularly reliable.
Breaking confidence, leaking information.



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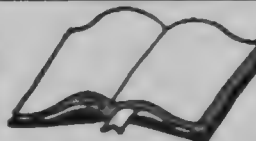
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Paintball and terrorism in Virginia and Toronto

by Peter R. Snell

As I write this, the media is ablaze with stories of the 17 young men (including 5 juveniles - people too young to be named) who have been arrested in Toronto after police say they uncovered a plot to blow up various Canadian buildings. Some of the 17 have participated in military-style "training" camps.

Paintball. Terrorism. School kids. Racism. Cartoons and jihads. It's a holy war out there. Things are getting just a bit crazy these days.

As I write this, the media is ablaze with stories of the 17 young men (including 5 juveniles - people too young to be named) who have been arrested in Toronto after police say they uncovered a plot to blow up various Canadian buildings. Some of the 17 have participated in military-style "training" camps.

Or was it just a healthy round of paintball?

Let's stay with the paintball theme and back up to Alexandria, Virginia, where, in March, 2004, three American citizens were convicted of conspiring to aid and abet terrorism. Where they terrorists who took part in deadly training camps, or where they simply having fun playing paintball?

Paintball is, apparently, popular in Virginia. For anybody who has played "guns" as a kid, it's about the same: teams run around in the woods shooting at each other. We used sticks or plastic guns or whatever was at hand, and shouted "bang, you're dead," then argued as to whether the shot was actually possible and who shot first. Paintballers have guns that fire balls the size of a large marble, containing paint encased in gelatin or some such material. When one hits you, the splat of paint leaves no doubt that you've been hit. I've played it a twice and it's actually quite fun, if you can put up with friends who may ride you for liking such a primitive pastime.

But don't take it from me. Here are a few quotes from a teenage online discussion of "the most fun thing you have done." One teenager gets the ball rolling with this comment: "painball (sic) is very fun is like being in a war, but you don't necessarily have to die to loose." When one commenter responds, saying his/her most fun thing is "Swimming with dolphins and riding them and kissing them," he/she gets a succinct reply: "PAINTBALL!!!!" Someone suggests playing the guitar is the most fun thing, but is quickly told. "yeah but plaving guitar is something we do

everyday it's no longer the most fun. Paintball is really fun, I've been once and I wanna go again, again and again, again and again and again and again." Maybe I'm getting sidetracked here, but there are some interesting allusions here that reveal unconscious cultural attitudes, such as the "fun" of war and (dare I mention it) the almost sexual connotations of the last remark.

With that in the background, let's go back to Virginia, where three men of Muslim background were sentenced for being terrorists. They got sentences of between 50 years and life.

The FBI did not at first see this as a terrorist case, as there was no evidence the men wanted to attack the United States.

"A lot of this is about preemption," an FBI spokesman was quoted as saying in the Washington Post. Well, "preemption" (acting before something is done to forestall it actually being done) got these two guys a very long time in jail.

Originally, 11 men were charged with conspiracy to violate the Neutrality Acts which make it illegal for Americans to attack countries that are at peace with the United States. These Acts are not used much and the government prosecution, thinking they might have a thin case, thought they should make deals with most of the men, offering them shorter sentences if they pled guilty. Some did and some had charges dropped and some got reduced sentences for speaking against the three who refused to plea bargain.

So what did these men do? They played paintball and fired legally-owned firearms in the countryside, something many red-blooded Americans do to

amuse themselves. However, these guys were Muslim and had previous connections to Lashkar-i-Taiba, a group that wants India to back off its interest in Kashmir. The men's involvement with the group occurred before the American government labelled it a terrorist organization in 2001, sometime after 9/11. Two of the men attended a training camp in Pakistan, also before the group was designated as a terrorist organization.

At most, these men might have enlisted to fight in some war against India. There is absolutely no evidence that they wanted to do anything illegal in the United States.

Information that got the three men convicted came from three sources. First were the men under extreme pressure to "rat" on their mates in return for lighter sentences. The second was the acknowledged political belief of the defendants that India should get out of Kashmir. The third involved where the men worshipped - a mosque where the Kashmir issue was discussed.

Apart from anything else, "the prosecutorial strategy of "Plead guilty or be labeled a terrorist" is coercive, and wrong for our government to employ in any case, terrorism or no terrorism," according to lawyer Elaine Cassel, from whose article I have drawn most of the facts of this case. Just as ominous is the fairly evident racism that the court showed in convicting these men. As Cassel asks, would Irish or Israeli radicals in the same position have suffered the same fate?

But that's the kind of frightened world we live in today. For example, again in Virginia, a man was given a 155-year sentence for trafficking in cigarettes (his co-traffickers got five years).

It's apparently very lucrative. Traffickers buy cigarettes in states where taxes are low and sell them in states where they are high. Traffickers can make millions on one truckload of cigarettes. Still, why the big sentence? Well, it was discovered the man was passing the money along to Hezbollah, which is listed as a terrorist organization by Canada and the United States.

Hezbollah is indeed militant and doesn't like Western ways much. However, it's a legitimate party in Lebanon, and also does community development work and runs hospitals and educational services. The European Union has designated its external wing as terrorist, but not the overall organization. As you can see, it's not as simplistic as the American (and recently, the Canadian) government likes to portray such issues to its citizens.

And now we have our own paintball situation in

continued on next page

Perhaps this issue is seen as an urban one at this point. But what better time for those of us in less populated areas to be "preemptive" and begin looking for solutions to such problems before they arrive full-blown on our doorstep.



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continued from previous page

Canada. Is this a legitimate terrorist group or are these a bunch of disenfranchised and disgruntled kids? Well some of them have messed with illegal guns and they apparently attempted to purchase three tonnes of ammonium nitrate, which is generally used as a fertilizer. But when mixed with other freely available chemicals, it's fairly simple to create a lethal bomb. The common comparison is to Timothy McVeigh, who used only one tonne of the stuff to destroy a federal building in Oklahoma, killing 168 people and wounding 800.

The episode has had predictable responses from various quarters. Police and other officials stress that the arrests should not be seen as an indictment of all Muslims. Muslim leaders have denounced the actions of the radical group. Racist goons have vandalized a mosque. An American Republican politician has used the event to denounce our "liberal" immigration policies and to question border security.

If these 17 men/children are indeed terrorists, then we need to deal with them as we do all criminals: through our legal system and our authorities need to watch vigilantly for similar groups. But we must be careful here. There's no doubt that real terrorists want to make their point by killing people - you, me, the local politician, the prime minister, it doesn't really matter as long as there are enough people to make the point. At the same time, we have in Canada and the United States two conservative regimes intent upon raising the fear in our communities to levels that will allow them to introduce measures that will compromise many of our most cherished freedoms.

Despite 9/11, not many people have died from terrorism, unless you count the American invasion of Iraq and suchlike as terrorism. We're much more likely to get nailed by disease or pollution or a drunken driver.

When do cigarette smugglers, paintballers and disgruntled teenagers digitally beating their virtual chests on chat lines become bona fide terrorists? I don't know the answer to that one, but I do know that we'll soon be seeing endless pronouncements by politicians and self-appointed moral and legal experts, expressing shock, demanding harsh measures and decrying our "liberal" laws. All we can do at this point is listen very carefully to all parties. We should take note of some atrocious legal transgressions already committed south of the border, including some clearly racist legal judgments that can only be made when politics trump the supposedly dispassionate court system.

If any good comes out of events like this, I hope it is that authorities take the opportunity to talk to Muslim leaders and perhaps work with them to understand the root of the problem. According to Shabir Ally, a Guyanese immigrant, a Muslim and the president of the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre International, some Muslim texts do emphasize violence over peace. Most Muslims do not concern themselves with these writings and concentrate on the majority of texts that focus on developing a good life. Providing sensible and historical interpretations of the more troublesome classical texts may help both Muslims and non-Muslims understand the culture better.

Perhaps this issue is seen as an urban one at this point. But what better time for those of us in less populated areas to be "preemptive" and begin looking for solutions to such problems before they arrive full-blown on our doorstep.

by peter r. snell

Bigotry in Sudbury

In Canada the lure for newcomers has always been to the north. People led a freer life in the north country. Newcomers were judged by their actions and the work ethic. Nothing else appeared to stand in their way.

But seventy years ago some immigrants who had made their way to New Ontario found that some of the worst attitudes of old country life had entered the north in the mental baggage of some settlers.

Internment of Germans, Italians and others from eastern European countries during both world wars is well known. The shameful treatment of new Chinese immigrants is often glossed over.

Sudbury's bout with bigotry came in 1922. The story is played out in the pages of the Sudbury Star which first broke a dubious news story. The piece alleged that three white girls, two of whom were waitresses, were engaged in prostitution. Although their names were not mentioned, the charges were buttressed by insinuations that the women were molested by their employers.

The women were hustled out of town and sent to prison for a while in Toronto but the story did not die there. The actions that followed must be seen in the light of the times and currently held public views.

The Chinese had to overcome many hurdles to get to Canada and make a new life. They soon prospered due to hard work and specialization in the work place. Many went into the laundry business and others opened restaurants.

Canada was just getting over the post war slump in the early twenties and the success rightly enjoyed by the Chinese provoked envy in others. Town Council used the current publicity as an opportunity to control Chinese restaurants and even boarding houses. Council refused to allow women to work in Chinese businesses, even though there was no legal basis for the action.

Booths were popular in eating places and civic fathers saw booths as an invitation to unacceptable behaviour among young people.

Council wanted booths removed and made its will known to the reluctant Chinese proprietors. There was even some dispute as to whether all Chinese restaurants should be

made to comply with civic wishes. In a perversion of the word, Council members decided not to 'discriminate'. All such restaurants would receive the same treatment.

These arbiters of public morality met their match in Sam Chew, a leading restaurant owner. He had a good reputation and had never had trouble with the law. To add to this, the other owners had similar blameless records other than the one incident.

But narrow minds once made up are hard to change. Since city council found it had no legal backing for its actions, it enforced them by its licensing powers.

Faced with the prospect of losing official sanction to operate, the hapless restaurant owners were forced to comply with the ill-considered wishes of town fathers. Mr. Chew was forced out of business at considerable loss.

The pressure was kept up on all Chinese restaurant owners- whose real 'crime' was that they were a successful minority- and gradually they were forced to comply. Booths were removed, renovations were borne by the owners and several women lost their livelihoods. The ugly episode of bigotry in 1922 directed against one segment of the population was over. The Chinese became, as they are today, sterling citizens. During World War II their patriotism was of the highest order and they contributed much of their substance to the war effort.

It has been a long time since women were barred from working in any establishment in the nickel capital of Canada. In the eighties, Sudbury citizens elected popular Peter Wong to two terms as Mayor. The old stigma of bigotry had finally been lived down.

Michael Barnes is the author of many books about northern Ontario. Look him up on the web site of The Writers Union of Canada



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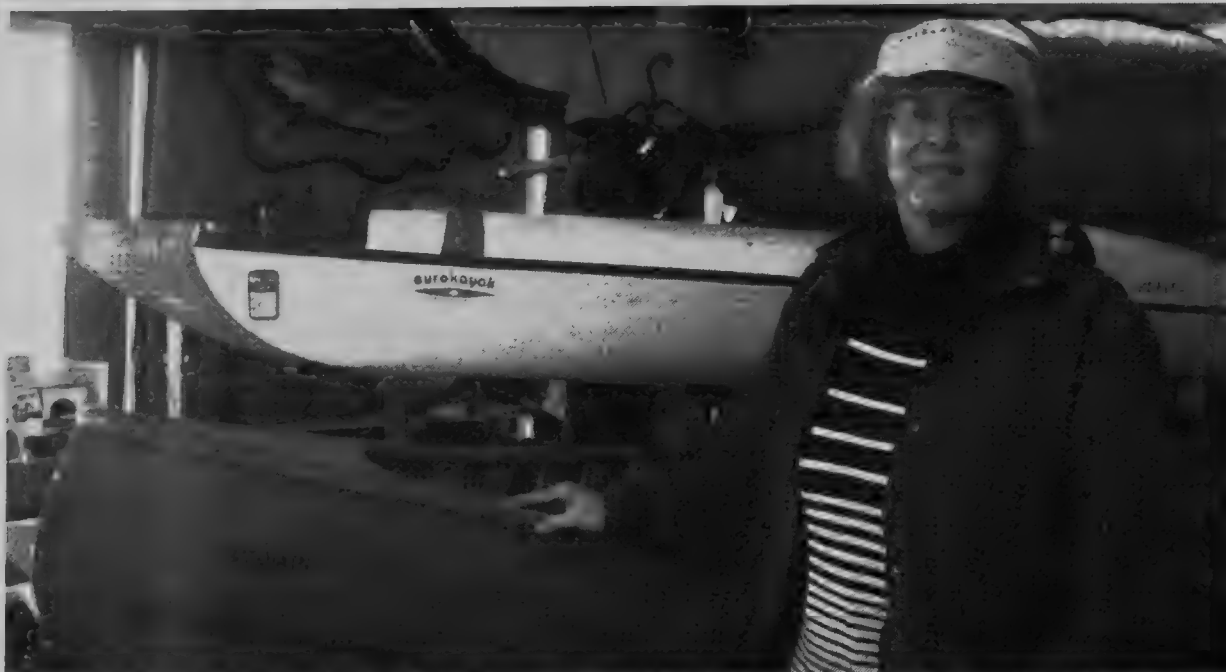
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Barry's Bay Outfitters are gearing up for the summer season (photo above). For rentals or canoe/kayak sales, or other outdoor activities, drop in and discover the great ways to explore the area. David Elsegood is photographed (photo right) at the Maynooth Shell Gas Station. The store sells bait & minnows and they want to remind you to check the policy of the lakes you may fish in. Some area lakes do not allow live bait. A good option is the packed and salted bait.



Oceans Day provides opportunity to examine the state of Canada's oceans

Oceans Day, celebrated internationally on June 8th, is a perfect opportunity to have a long hard look at of the state of Canada's oceans.

While our oceans are rich in marine life and provide a livelihood for many, by any measure they have seen better days. Problems such as the ongoing decline of cod stocks on the east coast, fears of a similar collapse in salmon stocks on the west coast and the deliberate dumping of bilge oil by ocean-going vessels highlight the need to reverse the degradation of our oceans and coastal communities. Here are three cases where we can begin to turn the tide.

1. Cod recovery:

Despite the fact that cod fishing has been banned for over ten years in most areas off Newfoundland and Labrador, most stocks continue to decline. We have two immediate opportunities to help rebuild cod stocks – maybe the last two chances at real recovery we will ever have.

The first will take place this September at the annual meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held in Dartmouth. NAFO is responsible for regulating fishing nations that operate outside Canada's 200 mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Recognizing the need for change, last

year NAFO committed to reform how member countries fish and how stocks are managed.

If NAFO member states take measurable steps to wipe out illegal fishing, set and stick to sustainable quotas based on scientific advice, and protect important habitats like coral forests and spawning grounds, our offshore groundfish fisheries, including cod, may be able to recover.

The second opportunity is the federal government's promised rebuilding plan for cod – a commitment made as an alternative to listing cod as an endangered species.

If NAFO commits to serious reform and Canada develops a true recovery strategy addressing key threats like bycatch, with targets and timelines for action, cod recovery just might be possible.

2. Protecting Canada's marine heritage:

Canada can quickly take an important step in ocean recovery by establishing marine protected areas (MPAs). In Canada, over eight per cent of our land is protected from industrial development, compared to less than one half of one per cent of our oceans. In this absence of protection, marine habitats such as cold-water corals, kelp forests and salt marshes are being destroyed – habitats that are necessary to maintain

healthy marine ecosystems and support commercial fisheries.

Many of these wilderness areas have been slated for protection for years or even decades, including Igaliktuq, a bowhead whale sanctuary off Baffin Island; Bowie Seamount, a huge undersea mountain off the coast of northern British Columbia; and Scott Islands, one of the world's great seabird colonies off the northern tip of Vancouver Island. Protecting these sites would constitute a globally outstanding accomplishment and a step towards ocean sustainability with representative networks of protected areas in the Pacific, Arctic and Atlantic.

3. Consumer choices:

More and more consumers want to know that the seafood they buy is caught sustainably. As a result, many fishing companies are moving to adopt high environmental standards.

By making informed choices now, consumers can demonstrate to governments and industry the value Canadians place on healthy oceans.

By not giving up hope and acting now, governments, industry and consumers can all help lay the foundation to restore healthy oceans, and help rebuild and sustain healthy coastal communities.

Josh Laughren

Director, Marine Conservation
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The New Chainsaw

Genetically engineered trees are the new threat to Canada's forests

by Katie Shafley

The debate over genetically modified plants is moving beyond the fields and heating up under the forest canopy. Research on genetically engineered (GE) trees is well under way in many countries and GE trees may soon be a familiar presence in our forests. Orin Langelle and Anne Petermann of Global Justice Ecology have embarked on a campaign to stop GE tree research. According to Petermann, "GE trees are the greatest threat to the native forest since the chainsaw."

Currently, genetic research on trees is largely focused on developing methods that will make growing, harvesting and processing trees and their fruits and nuts, more 'efficient.' Scientists are experimenting with increasing levels of BT (a naturally occurring pesticide) in trees, increasing trees' resistance to herbicides, reducing levels of lignin (the substance which promotes rigidity) in trees, and making trees sterile. Each of these characteristics will have devastating consequences on the environment, says Petermann. "Biotechnology is so revolutionary that we know almost nothing about it...but so far everything has been one problem after another." For example, trees with increased levels of BT are supposed to result in a decrease in sprayed pesticides, but the opposite has been the case.

Trees with increased levels of BT result in the 'natural' selection of insects that are more resistant to the BT pesticide. This, in turn, necessitates higher pesticide levels, which can inadvertently kill non-target species. In the film *A Silent Forest: The Growing Threat, Genetically Engineered Trees*, David Suzuki explains that the BT pesticide will also leach into the ecological cycle through the roots, leaves, flowers, and pollen. "A forest that kills insects would be catastrophic," says Suzuki.

Scientists are also working on creating sterile GE trees to prevent pollination of native trees; however, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), it is nearly impossible to control gene flow through pollen and seed dispersal - even at a 95 percent success rate. As Petermann points out, "the sterilized trees are producing nothing, and the other 5% are still sending out tainted genes—it's a lose-lose situation." By bearing no flowers, fruit, or nuts, the sterile trees will offer little nourishment to the wildlife around them, and accidental contamination of native forests by the non-sterile - but genetically modified - trees will result in unforeseeable

upsets to the ecological balance. For example, according to Greenpeace's website, "reduced lignin could speed up the decomposition of trees, altering soil ecology, structure and fertility."

The Nanjing Institute of Environmental Science has already found genes from the GE poplars in Xinjiang, China appearing in natural varieties, and researchers have found backyard and organic papaya trees in Thailand and Hawaii contaminated by pollen from nearby GE papaya plantations.

Despite the risks, the biotechnology industry is promoting genetic modification as a way to clean up the environment by addressing problems like climate change and soil contamination. Aziz Choudry, Board Member of Global Justice Ecology, says this is simply a public relations move meant to "make the insane palatable," and will not work.

"They say that they can engineer trees to suck mercury [from the soil]," says Petermann, "but then the mercury is just displaced into the air." As for global warming, GE trees could be engineered to take CO2 out of the air faster than normal trees, but GE plantations would replace native forestland, inhibiting biodiversity. "Studies done by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the World Resources Institute found that in tropical areas plantations at best sequester only 1/4 the carbon as native forests," says Petermann. GE trees wouldn't offset carbon emissions enough to make a serious impact on global warming, says Petermann. A better response to global warming, she says, would be to cut down on pollution.

On March 22nd, Langelle and Petermann attended the Convention on Biological Diversity in Brazil to seek a moratorium on the research and commercial use of GE trees. While they did not achieve an all-out ban, the UN did recommend that the precautionary approach be used with GE trees. The application of the precautionary principle would mean that GE technology must be proven safe and necessary before being used. Canada and the United States argued against the recommendation.

The United States has a large stake in biotechnology, with 150 test plots conducting over two thirds of the world's GE tree research. The Canadian government has not yet released genetically modified trees into the commercial sector, but has been testing GE black spruce, white spruce, and poplar in greenhouses and outdoors since 1997, with test plots in Quebec, New Brunswick,

British Columbia, and Alberta.

So far, the only commercial GE tree plantations are in China, which released BT poplar trees in 2001. A destructive cycle led to China's GE forests, says Petermann. Initial deforestation in China led to desertification, leading to poplar plantations to curb the desertification. The poplar monoculture was vulnerable to insect infestation, so insect-resistant BT poplars were planted, which China did with the help of the UN Development Program and the FAO. "The accurate area of GM plantations cannot be assessed because of the ease of propagation and marketing of GM trees and the difficulty of morphologically distinguishing GM from non-GM trees," says Huoran Wang of the Chinese Academy of Forestry, "a lot of materials are moved from one nursery to another and it is difficult to trace them."

"It's completely unregulated," Langelle says. "People can buy these trees at any local nursery and plant them anywhere."

"Chile sees itself as a model for industrial forestry in the world," says Petermann, and may be next to commercialize GE trees. Genetic research is currently focused on the eucalyptus, which occupies a large portion of Chilean plantations. These plantations are already having devastating impacts on the environment and indigenous communities.

Plantations are water-intensive, which means they deplete groundwater, making it harder for other organisms and local communities to obtain water. The trees leach nutrients from the soil, reduce biodiversity and as monocultures, allow pests and diseases to flourish, requiring increased use of pesticides and herbicides. "Timber plantations are a scourge of the South," says Langelle, and combined with GE technology, plantations could have even more destructive effects. As the Greenpeace website reports, research is being done to create faster-growing trees, which would exacerbate problems of nutrient depletion and groundwater loss already present in plantations.

Petermann and Langelle are continuing their drive for a worldwide ban of GE trees at the next UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2008. But Langelle's expectations of the UN are minimal, noting that "the UN is not really a body that's going to stop anything." Nevertheless, he believes that "people have the power to stop this."

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Encourier exclusive

Throughout history there have been numerous reports of children being raised by apes, dogs, wolves and even die-hard Montreal Canadian fans. So when rumours surfaced, late one night at a local Legion, of a boy who had been raised by mosquitoes, it didn't take long before The Courier contracted me to chase down the story. That's right, when it comes to the abnormal, they think of me first.

Needless to say, the lad, who we'll call Skeeter had a tough life. And when I say tough, I mean really tough. His parents were idealistic young naturalists from the city who were geo-caching in the early spring several years ago. This is particularly unusual since geo-caching had yet to be invented.

Unfortunately, and for no good reason, each of them was wearing full camouflage, which, in this case, happened to be a particularly effective tree-bark pattern. And here's where Skeeter's tragic tale really begins.

Things were going smoothly until they ran into a flock of pileated woodpeckers. Sadly, the normally harmless birds were completely duped by the full camouflage suits. The rest of the episode is not pretty. They were found the next spring.

But before that, in a last desperate plea to save young Skeeter, his mother rolled the carriage away from the woodpecker attack site. The carriage hit a tree and then flipped. Young Skeeter was thrown from the crash scene and, in one of those miraculous twists of fate, landed in a puddle.

Boy raised by mosquitoes

Lost and alone in this world, the toddler soon made friends with the numerous mosquito larvae wriggling around that shallow pool. Soon, he gained their respect and the mosquitoes began to call him blood brother. Before long he was being taught their ways. And he did well too. Heck, his school photo shows him standing head and shoulders, above all the other pupa. But even then, it was not easy for him - his first school bus ride was on the windshield.

For a brief while though, Skeeter lived the happy life of a mosquito. But, contrary to the advice of his proud mosquito parents, he strayed from the relative safety of biting moose and bears behind the ears, and wandered off into a nearby campsite.

As you can well imagine, it didn't take long before he got noticed and many campers soon complained that he was being a pest. Some went so far as to refer to him as a pain in the neck. Public Health Officials said something had to be done.

The local community responded quickly. They sent out a swat team and the next thing you know he was splattered all over the papers.

This posed the question: what was to be done

with Mosquito Boy?

Because authorities at the time were trying to contain a possible outbreak of West Nile virus, Skeeter was sent for rehabilitation at a secret Falafel Hut somewhere in southern Ontario. And he has remained there ever since.

Is he progressing? Will he ever live a normal life?

Well, experts say it's not going to be easy. As you can well imagine, he's not like other 8-year-old boys.

For instance, he's terrified of frogs, barn swallows, and dragonflies. Even little things that all of us take for granted, like screen doors, pose incredible challenges to this young tyke. He also has severe psychological issues. For instance, he can't get close to anyone wearing a bug jacket or citronella-scented perfume. And his curiosity almost caused him severe injury in a terrible bug-zapper accident.

Still, there is reason to be hopeful. He likes camping and the outdoors. Moreover, a recent visit to a blood donor clinic was the highlight of his school year. In fact, he has stated that one day he hopes to work for the Red Cross in collections.

The real question is, are there more of these mosquito children out there?

Personally, I don't think it would be that far-fetched.

Hey, they say there's a sucker born every minute.

by steve galea

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Letter to Editor

email us at hillo@sympatico.ca

We live in a great country, don't we? Freedom of speech, agreeing to disagree, respecting differing viewpoints... these are treasures of which not every nation can boast. In Canada, in Ontario, and specifically here at the Highlands Courier, intelligent adults can voice their opinions, and disagree peacefully, right Andrea? For instance, a reporter like me can tell her editor (the lovely and very charming Andrea Hillo) not to be a sexist pig. Of course I wouldn't use those terms, not out loud, but the point is, I could and she would not fire me (did I mention Andrea is also very intelligent, caring has a terrific sense of humour?)

As a healthy woman with smoothly functioning eyeballs and libido, I very much appreciate the male form. I would agree that some male forms are more beautiful than others, and the eyes linger because that is how we human beings are wired. However, to display a person for their physical beauty alone, whether in a magazine, on stage or in a newspaper, is to objectify that person. It proclaims: "Feast your eyes on this thing, this commodity". No matter how good natured the intention, the message remains that this person's intrinsic value rests in their looks. This idea feeds into the beauty myth that has devastated our women, and now threatens our men.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote: "Woman's degradation is in man's idea of his sexual rights. Our religion, laws, customs, are all founded on the belief that woman was made for man." She wrote this in the 1800's, at a time when women were considered weak, stupid and child-like; inferior to men. At the same time, women's looks were highly valued. Objectification of a person was wrong when men did it to women. It is even worse for women to do it to men now, since we have borne the experience and we know the devastating results.

It is becoming common today to see the backlash against male domination: it is not difficult to find examples of men being belittled, objectified and mocked in our popular culture. But does the Courier have to be part of it, even in this small way? This newspaper is beautifully crafted, full of life and community pride. It has no need of "eye candy" to sell papers. Your readers are better than this, Andrea. Your paper is better than this. Retire the "Cutie" column, it is beneath you. Strive instead to showcase human beings in all their glory: men and women, young and old. Go forward, pursue your highest ideals.

Genevieve "Newbie" Jones
Barry's Bay

June Courier Cutie



Our hottie this month sure is 'werking' for me. We spotted Courier's June Cutie, rocking and rowing in Minden. He is the owner of Boatwerks which just opened it's second store location in Haliburton. Row, row, row your boat, gentle down the stream, merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily isn't he a dream! To report a Hottie, call on the Cutie Hot Line immediately at 1(888)448-1394.

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Timber...fest

Germaine Frechette of Quebec makes the wood chips fly during the hot saw (anything goes) competition. Compared to some of the saws in the competition, with their motorcycle and snowmobile engines, Frechette's saw is closer to stock. He finished fifth. (photo top right)

Jake Prohaskov of Harrowsmith, Ontario (top left) and Tom Mikel of Consec-on, Ontario compete in the pole climb event. (photo top left)

Brenda and Brad Stevens from Vermont placed in the middle of the pack in the Jack and Jill cross cut saw competition. (photo below)



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